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DOWNTOWN, PARK SLOPE & BAY RIDGE EDITIONS

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## BAILOUT!

### New deals cut to save Yards

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

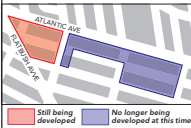
State officials threw Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner two lifelines this week in an effort to salvage the bare bones of his original 16-sky-scraper office, residential and basketball arena complex.

On Wednesday, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, citing the effect of the recession on Ratner's stalled \$4-billion project, relieved the developer of his responsibility to make \$200 million in infrastructure improvements at the Vanderbilt rail yards in Prospect Heights — and gave him the development rights over the yards with just a \$20-million down payment instead of the \$100 million lump sum he pledged for the full 22-acre site in 2006.

Ratner has until 2031 to pay off the remaining \$80 million.

#### THE SHRINKING YARDS

Developer Bruce Ratner and state officials are not currently seeking to acquire land beyond the arena site (shaded area below left), making the Atlantic Yards project nothing more than a basketball arena and several buildings at the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

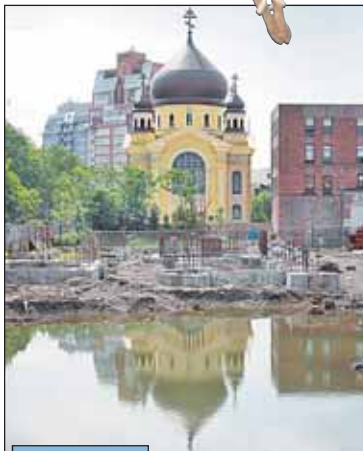


"It's not quite as good [a deal] as we had hoped," Gary Dellaverson, said the MTA's chief financial officer on Monday after presenting the new contract publicly. "Obviously, from every vantage point, it would be better to have \$100 million at closing."

MTA officials said they did not believe that Ratner's less-extensive renovation of the rail yard would affect Long Island Rail Road service — though the MTA originally cited Ratner's commitment to a full rehab of the train yard as the reason he was given development rights over another bidder who offered \$50 million more.

One day before the MTA board vote, the Empire State Development Corporation, also citing the economic downturn, amended its agreement with Ratner to give him more time to build the

See BAILOUT on page 6



THE BROOKLYN PAPER/PHOTO BY MICHAEL GOODMAN

## Bruce will pay to name subway

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

Next stop, Barclays! Basketball arena developer Bruce Ratner will pay \$200,000 per year to have the Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street subway stations co-named for Barclays, the British bank whose name will also adorn the proposed

arena at the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

The 20-year contract is the first naming-rights deal for the cash-strapped Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which has unsuccessfully tried to find sponsors for other stations around the city.

Board members and staff her-

alded the arrangement, approved on Wednesday, as a major victory for the chronically underfunded mass transit system.

Ratner has said he'll break ground on the New home court this fall. The renaming of the subway lines — and the Barclays' appearance on maps — will coincide with the arena's

opening, now planned for 2012.

Barclays signed a deal with Ratner \$400 million for the sponsorship of the long-awaited arena two years ago. At the time, opponents protested that a bank with links to slavery and the Holocaust should not have its name anywhere in Brooklyn, with its sizable black and Jewish populations.



## Taj Mosquito

Wonder of the world or mosquito breeding ground? That's the question on the corner of Bedford Avenue and N. 12th Street in Williamsburg, where a puddle in a construction site has turned into a stagnant lake of sorrows. Neighbors worry that the pond — which reflects the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in a style similar to India's Taj Mahal — might lead to skeeter trouble this summer.



THE BROOKLYN PAPER/PHOTO BY MICHAEL GOODMAN

THE BQE: If they fix it, it doesn't mean that safety will come, state officials now admit.

## BQE fix: Standards are optional

### State: No way to make highway as safe as possible

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

The planned rehabilitation of the crowded and dangerous section of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway in Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO — a roadway that includes a stretch with 10 times more accidents than the state average — may not bring the aging interstate up to federal highway standards, officials admitted last week.

"To that extent that we can, we'll bring it up to standards. But sometimes it's not possible," said Peter King, the regional program and planning manager for the New York State Department of Transportation.

State transportation officials are in the early stages of a decade-long planning process for a major overhaul of the portion of the BQE that skirts the Brooklyn waterfront, but the complexity of the project may prevent them from raising the road conditions up to all minimum federal regulations.

Between Sands Street and Atlantic Avenue — the area due for repair — the highway abuts densely populated neighborhoods, crosses seven subway tunnels, borders the proposed Brooklyn Bridge Park, spans 21 bridges and carries 140,000 vehicles per day. It includes the triple cantilever (world-renowned in engineering circles), the shelf-like, but stressed-out, section beneath the scenic Promenade.

Effects of the tight confines are already evident in the high number of car crashes on this stretch of I-278.

The narrow lanes, short on-ramps and lack of shoulders along the highway make this part of the BQE especially dangerous and agonizingly congested.

Accidents occur at a rate 10 times

above the state average for one section near Atlantic Avenue, where there's a precarious entrance ramp.

Other nearby portions have rates far above the state accident rate, too.

According to the state Transportation Department's Web site, the \$300-million construction project will begin in 2017 and end in 2020, though those dates have been shifting.

Only a small number of people attended two preliminary review sessions on Monday.

Some attendees called for the state to expand the project so treacherous

westbound entrances will be rebuilt or, to ease rush-hour commuting, to extend a high-occupancy vehicle lane from Gowanus Expressway into the BQE.

Another pressing concern that aired again was the possibility of conflict between the highway project and construction of Brooklyn Bridge Park, a possibility raised last fall.

But officials from the state Department of Transportation and Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation have said they are in consultation with each other.

## No fly zone

Quidditch takes off as players keep their feet on the ground

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

A gang of Harry Potter fanatics turned a make-believe game into a real world sport in McCarran Park on Saturday.

Two teams of fiction-obsessed athletes staged a game of Quidditch — a high-flying sport practiced by wizards and witches of the bestselling young-adult novels.

But there was at least one key difference between the game depicted in the pages of J.K. Rowling's books and the sport practiced on the grassy field — the players in Brooklyn couldn't fly.

Instead of whizzing around the air on broomsticks, players from Emerson and Middlebury colleges ran around holding brooms between their legs while attempting to score points by throwing volleyballs through six makeshift hoops.

Players say they prefer remaining on the ground.

"Not being able to fly actually makes us work harder — it's like a challenge," said one player.



THEY BELIEVE THEY CAN FLY: College kids played quidditch — Harry Potter's game of choice.

See GAME on page 2

## SEASON'S BEATINGS!

### For openers, Clones take two from Yanks



The Brooklyn Cyclones — who seem to be forever chasing the Staten Island Yankees — took the season-opening series against their rivals.

By Zeke Faux  
for The Brooklyn Paper

There is joy in Metville once more: The Brooklyn Cyclones swept their two-game, rain-shortened opening weekend series from the hated Staten Island Yankees, reigniting a cross-Narrows rivalry just as intense as the big-league Subway Series.

A sellout crowd of 9,284 cheered as the Coney Island Nine rode Collin McHugh's strong start to a 6-2 win in last Friday's home opener.

Then, after Saturday's match up in Staten Island was rained out, the L'I' Amazins' thumped the Baby Bombers, 5-2, on Sunday, though the game was called in the middle of the sixth inning after a series of showers had turned KoySpan Park's infield into a mud pit.

See VICTORY on page 2

## Ken Siegelman, Brooklyn's poet laureate, 63

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's poet laureate, Ken Siegelman, died on Friday at his home in Gravesend. He was 63.

Since being named the official poetic voice by Borough President Markowitz in 2002, Siegelman, the author of more than 200 published poems, was a tireless promoter of verse throughout Brooklyn, a regular at public events, libraries and schools.

All the while, he maintained the frenetic pace of a working poet, writing new verse regularly. Indeed, his latest poem, "Stage Fright," was published in May. And last year, Siegelman's life and poetry became the fodder for a full-length feature film, "Fading to Zero."

On Friday, Markowitz mourned the loss.

"Selecting Ken Siegelman as poet laureate was one of my proudest acts



See SIEGELMAN on page 14

## Poet's death leaves giant muse to fill

What'll it be, Brooklyn: epic, narrative, lyric, whimsical or just plain old doggerel?

Like the borough he serves, Borough President Markowitz will have a diverse array of poets — and poetic styles — to choose from when he picks a new poet laureate to replace Ken Siegelman, who died last week at age 63.

Though all of Brooklyn is mourning the loss of Siegelman, who served as the Lyricist-in-Chief since 2002, poetry insiders are already asking the most important poetic question after "To be or not to be": namely, who will fill Siegelman's big gull pen.

"I would remind the borough president that there are a lot of rich and colorful communities in Brooklyn, such as the African-American and the Caribbean community — and he could fill

an auditorium with all the great women poets we have," said Harvey Shapiro, the dean of the borough's close-knit poetry community.

Many people put Shapiro on their "short list" for the job, but at 85 years old, he said he's too old to be "trotting around to a lot of public functions."

Former laureate Dennis Narske, the only poet to survive his tenure, beseeched Markowitz to pick a woman and to make sure that the new officeholder

"doesn't write puffery, but really gets people to take poetry seriously."

"This is a job that can really provide support to the artists who work in Brooklyn and bring their work into the schools, so that kids can be exposed to poetry," he added.

It's hard to know what Markowitz is looking for — he did not return calls for comment this week — but would-be laureates should know that there's no "free verse" in Brooklyn (the Siegelman family gave Markowitz \$475 in political donations over the years).

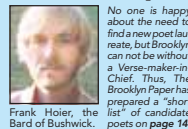
But to get politics out of the race to

succeed Siegelman, I called the borough's top poetry experts to compile a short list.

Mary Gannon, editor of Poets and Writers magazine and the former poetry

See LAUREATE on page 14

## Balladeers line up to fill vacant post



Frank Hoier, the Bard of Bushwick.



Leon Freilich, a strong poet from Park Slope.

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# EYE of the STORM

The world's best Cyclones coverage

## Perfect season ends

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

### Renegades 3

### Cyclones 2

Monday, June 22, at Hudson Valley

The Cyclones two-game winning streak ended with the team's first loss of the season, a 3-2 loss to Hudson Valley that was over pretty much before it started.

The pesky Renegades got on the board with two runs in the home first of starter and loser Angel Cuan. The big blow was an RBI single by Brett Reynolds (seriously), who later scored on a groundout.

Hudson Valley added a run in the fourth on a sacrifice bunt, and Renegade pitching silenced Cyclone bats until the eighth inning, when John Servidio walked and scored on Matt Bouchard's double. Bouchard later scored on a Sam Honick single, but that was all she wrote for the Clones.

<http://Follow the action every day at BrooklynPaper.com/cyclones>

### Cyclones 7

### Renegades 3

Tuesday, June 23, at KeySpan Park

Starter Brandon Moore was untouchable, pitching seven strong, four-hit shutout innings on "Baracklyn Cyclones" night at KeySpan Park.



On "Baracklyn Cyclones" night, a President Obama impersonator (center) met Dock Doyle and John Servidio.

The first 2,500 fans got President Obama bobblehead dolls, but everyone got to enjoy a laugh over Hudson Valley.

The Clones got on the board in the bottom of first on a bases-loaded walk to Ralph Henriquez and a subsequent single by Luis Rivera.

The home team added another run in the second on a Matt Bouchard sac fly.

In the fifth, the Brooks put it out of reach thanks to a two-run double by Alexander Gregory and a two-out RBI single by hot-hitting John Servidio.

All three Renegade runs were yielded by Cyclone reliever Wesley Wrenn.

## VICTORY...

Continued from page 1

field into a mad paddle.

Returning Cyclone John Servidio powered the offense in both games, going 3-for-7 with a homer and three runs in the leadoff spot.

"I'm a lot more prepared than last season, and I'm used to wood bats now," said the right fielder, who hit just .239 with three homers in 40 games last season.

Servidio's home run — a towering shot that sailed over the left-field wall — came at a crucial moment in Friday's game.

After the Yankees scored first in the third, the Cyclones took advantage of two infield errors and a balk in the bottom of the inning to jump ahead, 3-1.

But McHugh ran out of gas in the fifth, walking a batter, hitting another and uncorking a wild pitch, allowing Staten Island to pull within a run.

The Yankees couldn't build on that momentum, however. Servidio homered to lead off the bottom half of the inning, and the Cyclones never looked back. McHugh (five innings, two runs, five hits, five strikeouts) hit the showers, and returning relievers Matias Carrillo and Michael Pover closed out the Yankees with four scoreless innings.

"It was great to get a win under our belt, especially against Staten Island," said McHugh, whose parents flew up from Georgia to watch him win his Brooklyn debut on his 22nd birthday.

In Sunday's game, "Serv" — as Servidio's coaches call him — led off with a hard double down the left-field line and scored the Clones' first run, sparking an eight-hit attack.

Brooklyn starter Mark Coburn (five innings, four hits, two runs, both on solo shots) and reliever Samuel Martinec combined for seven strikeouts, and first baseman Sam Honick delivered the rain-shortened evening's big blow, a two-out, two-run single in the second that snapped a 2-2 tie.

Servidio's strong series was just what some Cyclone fans were craving. Indeed, a bevy of Brooklyn babes waited for him after Friday's game.

Did chicks dig the long ball?

"No, they're friends of mine," said the slugger with a laugh.

## GAME

Continued from page 1

makes us real athletes," said Ian Cariboni, a chaser for the Emerson squad, which traveled to Brooklyn to take part in a promotion to coincide with the July 15 release of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

Flight is only one discrepancy between the version played in McCarran Park and Harry Potter's airborne Quidditch, which is like a mix of lacrosse and basketball — as if played at a Renaissance fair (make that "faire").

In the real-life game, iron balls called "bludgers" were replaced with kickballs, and a player wearing a gold T-shirt and gym shorts filled in for the "golden snitch" — a winged, walnut-sized ball that avoids players who try to catch it.

Despite the rain, some Harry Potter diehards waited for hours to watch the 7-on-7 game — which they claim is really taking off.

"Sure, we don't fly, but the fact that they've pulled off making a fictional game real is pretty impressive," said Jonathan Rosenthal, a spectator at the match.

## Zeke: Cyclones Freak

By Zeke Faux

## Clones learn to hate Yanks fast

Brooklyn's 29 newest stars have more to worry about than most ballplayers.

Whisked across the country by the Cyclones from small towns and minor-league backwaters and plunked right off Coney Island's Boardwalk, the rocks were playing in front of 9,000-plus screaming Brooklynites just a few days later. And Friday's opener thrust the youngsters into the middle of the Clones' stormy rivalry with the Staten Island Yankees, forcing the newest Mets to abandon their childhood allegiances.

Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore. Literally, in reliever Lance Hoge's case.

"I'm kinda shocked. I've never been around so much traffic," said the 22-year-old native of Stillwell, Kansas (pop. 6,401), who was drafted in the 36th round out of Kansas State University.

Despite growing up rooting for the Royals, Hoge said it was "awesome" to be playing for the L71 Amazins, but then again, he was working for his father's construction company when he got the call from New York on June 11.

The nine-year history of Hoge's new ballpark is filled with battles against the Yankees. Last season, Brooklyn finished in second place in the New York-Penn. League's McNamara Division, four games behind Staten Island.



New York's senior senator and Yankee fan, Chuck Schumer, greeted pitcher Brandon Sage on opening night.

that it was tough playing against the Yankees — the Wicked Witch of the West (of the Verrazano).

"I always liked the Yankees growing up, and I didn't really know about the [cross-Narrows] rivalry," said Honick, an 11th-round pick who led Tulane University with 16 homers this season. "But once I got here, it was full-fledged, in my face. It was sweet seeing the fans going back and forth during the games."

Honick helped the Cyclones sweep the hated Yanks, delivering a clutch two-run single in Sunday's 5-2 win. Another possibly reluctant Met, starter Collin McHugh, was instrumental in Friday's 6-2 victory.

"I grew up a Braves fan and looked up to [former New York nemesis] Tom Glavine, Greg Maddux and John Smoltz. But as soon as we came here, I heard the stories about Brooklyn being picked, and it was awesome," said the second-year pro.

Awesome and popular. On opening night, even Sen. Chuck Schumer made an appearance, despite being a lifelong Yankees fan.

"I'm a Yankees fan, but when it comes to the minors, I root for the Cyclones," said Schumer.

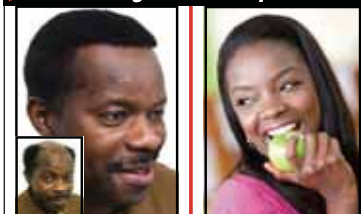
Asked about Schumer's Yankee pride, Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky said, "So what?" Informed that the Baby Bombers are the Cyclones' top adversary, Yassky quipped, "What do you want me to do, kick him out?"

As Brooklyn's rookies now know, the correct answer is yes.

Zeke Faux's last name is pronounced "Fox."

In the Faux hole  
Sunday's game was delayed by rain four times for a total of an hour and 44 minutes. The Cyclones rewarded each fan who stuck around with a free ticket to July 15's showdown with the Tri-City Valley Cats... Catcher Juan Centeno, 19, has beaten out 2008 fifth-round pick Dock Doyle for the starting job behind the plate for now. Centeno went 3-for-6 in the series... Friday's crowd of 9,284 was the sixth largest in Cyclones history. The club's attendance record, 10,073, was set in the final game of the 2007 season.

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NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

## CLINTON HILL

# Falling down Myrtle

Building collapse could have been much worse

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

A startling building collapse on Myrtle Avenue in Clinton Hill on Sunday has left more than a dozen families homeless.

The four-story building between Hall and Ryerson streets that buckled on Father's Day had been cited for violations last month. Its collapse damaged a neighboring home, which the city began demolishing on Tuesday. Two other buildings remained vacant as a precaution imposed by officials.

The fallen building dated from the 1870s and its structural flaws were not concealed — its facade had a long crack.

The Buildings Department said it's investigating the incident to see if shoddy construction work or June's heavy rains may have caused the subsidence.

"The public deserves a comprehensive and swift investigation," said Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries (D-Clinton Hill) in the emotional



The building at 493 Myrtle Ave., between Hall and Ryerson streets in Clinton Hill, collapsed amid heavy rain on Sunday.

aftermath of the accident. Four people suffered minor injuries, but the impact of the collapse is greater as former tenants must now find new homes.

Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Clinton Hill) took up a drive to assist the victims of the collapse, including a student who no longer has proper attire for her graduation from

PS 157 on Thursday. To make a donation to the relief effort, contact James's district office at (718) 240-9191 or e-mail teamtish@gmail.com.

## NORTH BROOKLYN

# Sweep less, park more?

Williamsburg thinks its streets are clean enough

By Ben Muesig  
The Brooklyn Paper

North Brooklynites are demanding a reduction in street cleaning — and with it a cut in the number of days that drivers must shuffle their cars due to alternate-side parking regulations.

Williamsburg and Greenpoint's Community Board 1 has called on the city to decrease the frequency of street cleaning from four days per week to two days per week on streets deemed "acceptably clean," and shorten the amount of time that drivers can be ticketed for parking on the wrong side of the street on dreaded alternate-side days.

In areas where four-day-per-week street cleaning would continue, the board wants the city to reduce the amount of time that car owners can be ticketed from 90 minutes to 30 minutes.

"In some areas, the current rules have become onerous and unnecessary — wasting residents' time and patience, as well as taxpayer dollars," the board wrote to Department of Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty on June 9.

"A good portion of our community board does not require four-day-a-week street cleaning, and parking regulations should be changed to reflect that," the statement



Some Williamsburg residents say their streets are clean enough for less street sweeping, but this pigeon disagrees.

continued. City statistics back up the claim.

Over the past four years, the percentage of "acceptably clean streets" in North Brooklyn has steadily increased from 83.7 percent in 2004 to 93.8 percent in 2008.

The neighborhood group urged the city to "shift resources from overly clean" parts of Williamsburg and Greenpoint to dirtier areas in North Brooklyn that still require four-day-per-week street cleaning — but that could put the entire proposal in the trash.

In the past, the Department of Sanitation has only lessened street cleaning throughout entire community boards not specific portions of them.

For its part, the city told The Brooklyn Paper that it was considering CBI's proposal.

"We are aware of the request and we are reviewing their letter," said Sanitation spokeswoman Kathy Dawkins.

Supporters say that reduced street-cleaning hours will save taxpayer dollars.

"It takes seven citizens from headaches because it means that they won't have to move their car four times a week unnecessarily," said Evan Thies, a City Council candidate who is also the chairman of CBI's Environmental Protection and Solid Waste Management Committee.

Williamsburg and Greenpoint aren't the first neighborhoods to request reductions in street cleaning. Last month, Fort Greene and Clinton Hill joined Park Slope, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, and Red Hook in receiving reductions in street cleaning — as well as a lengthy parking holiday without any alternate-side regulations while the city updates signage.

## PARK SLOPE

# Bishop: I'll cede to the pastor

Flanagan loses a possible savior

By Michèle De Meglio  
Community Newspaper Group

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio will not step in and save the job of a beloved Catholic elementary principal — despite an outpouring of support from parents at the Park Slope school.

Rev. Kiern Harrington, spokesperson for the Diocese of Brooklyn, said last week that DiMarzio has no plans

to reverse a decision by the St. Saviour's pastor, Rev. Daniel Murphy, to fire Principal James Flanagan after 25 years at the Eighth Avenue school.

"We've heard the protesters, but ultimately, the decision rests with the pastor," Harrington said. "He's the one who hires and fires."

Harrington's comments came after weeks of regular protests by parents,

both at the school and at the diocese office in Fort Greene.

"We're the ones who support Catholic education, but we're the ones being rolled over," Cathy Hunt, a mother of two, told The Brooklyn Paper recently. Hunt, who has organized marches in support of Flanagan, added, "You don't just pull out the leadership when a school is so successful."

Murphy is on vacation and unavailable for comment, according to a St. Saviour's staffer.

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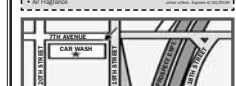
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# Jogger brutal rape in Greenpoint

## 94TH PRECINCT

**Greenpoint-Williamsburg**  
Two masked thugs raped an 18-year-old jogger on June 21 — and one made a comment suggesting that the attack was some sick form of revenge.

The perp — who wore ski masks during the attack — got out of a black Lincoln Town Car and grabbed the victim

as she ran past the corner of Meserole Avenue and Humboldt Street at around 2 a.m. The brutes groped the victim and one held her against her will while the other raped her.

"We finally got his b—," one of the crooks stated, the victim said.

After the attack, the victim was treated at Woodhull Hospital.

## Bag grab

Two women doused a 28-year-old woman with pepper spray in a bagged mug on June 17.

The crooks sneaked up on the victim as she walked on N. Fifth Street near Robbing Street at around 2:40 a.m.

"Give me your bag, b—!" one of the would-be thieves shouted.

One of the perps punched the victim in the face while the other sprayed her with the eye irritant — but the victim wouldn't hand over her purse.

The thieves ran away empty-handed and fled in a white SUV.

## Horrific hold-up

A pair of perps armed with a semi-automatic handgun and a knife robbed a Driggs Avenue bodega on June 17.

The thugs — who wore hoods over their heads, handkerchiefs over their faces, and blue gloves on their hands — burst into Angel Market Food on the corner of Monitor Street at around 10:20 p.m.

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and pulled out the heater and the culinary blade.

"B—h, give me the money," one of the crooks demanded before throwing an employee to the ground and kicking her.

One of the thieves climbed over the counter and grabbed \$950 while the other acted as a lookout, police reports indicated.

## Tree-son!

A tree-cherous thug struck a Greenpoint man with a tree branch in a baffling June 17 assault.

The woman perp clubbed the victim with the stick on the stomach on Eagle Street at around 10:15 a.m., "causing [him] pain and bruising and abrasion," according to the police report.

After the bizarre attack, the suspect fled from the crime, which was between Franklin and Court Streets.

## Manhattan burg

Burglars looted jewelry and electronics from a Manhattan Avenue apartment and graffiti supplies from an art store on June 16.

In the first crime, the crooks forced their way into a 15-year-old woman's apartment on Artisan and Craftsmen Supply through an unlocked rear door between 12:30 a.m. and 1:15 a.m. and looted spray paint, markers, and \$200 from the shop, which is between Graham Avenue and Humboldt Street.

Later, a thief or thieves tampered with a lock to get into the residence at the corner of Newell Street between 7:50 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Once inside, the crooks searched watches, jewelry, computers, a high-definition TV, an Xbox, and a camera.

## While sleeping

A thief cleaned out a Manhattan Avenue apartment on June 20 — while the 32-year-old victim dozed.

The quiet crook climbed through a first floor screen window between 2:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. to get into the residence, which is at the corner of Conesleya Street.

Once inside, the crook grabbed the victim's Apple laptop, iPod, cellphone and credit cards.

## Biker bilks

A vicious cyclist snatched a 19-year-old cellphone on June 17.

The bike-riding bad guy snatched the phone from the victim's hand near the corner of Debevoise and Skillman avenues at around 1:45 a.m.

## 84TH PRECINCT

**Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO**  
Boorum Hill-Downtown

## DUMBO wave

Thieves broke into an office building at 55 Washington St. over the June 19 weekend, stealing more than \$100,000 in property from two companies.

Macronet USA, a wine importer, lost more than \$500 in vino, plus several laptop computers, while Witch Games, a computer gaming company, was hit for \$750 in video games, plus a TV and a computer monitor.

It's not the first time crooks have pilfered this particular DUMBO building, which is between Water and Front streets. A rash of break-ins last year prompted stepped-up police presence in the neighborhood under the Manhattan Bridge overpass.

That presence will continue, said Capt. Mark DiPaolo, the commanding officer of the 84th Precinct, who said he will deploy cops inside the building itself while also urge the owner, Two Trees Management, to "get their security up to snuff."

Policing the area is tough, DiPaolo said, because 55 Washington St. houses numerous art studios that welcome the public.

"This is the kind of building that's open constantly," DiPaolo said. "Someone has this individual is gaining access." Ironically, at the precinct community council's June 16 meeting, Officers Noah Molina and David Mills were ordered for nabbing a man alleged to have been responsible for an earlier wave of burglaries at the same building.

## Shove off

A mugger knocked a woman to the pavement on St. James Place on June 14 before swiping her bag.

The victim, 29, said the hood sneak-attacked her from behind at 7 p.m. near the corner of Fulton Street. She told police he stole her cellphone and several banking and credit cards.

## Double Trouble

A thief looted an apartment on Washington Avenue on June 17 and got lots of gizmos.

The victims, two 28-year-old men, said no one was home from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. One of the roommates speculated that the intruder entered via a window.

They reported losing two laptops, an iPod, a camera, a DVD player and an Xbox from the apartment at the corner of Willoughby Avenue.

## Win-doh!

A prowler sneaked his way into a Clermont Avenue home through a window on June 18 and exited with oodles of personal belongings.

The resident, a 50-year-old man, said he activated his security system when he left 5:30 p.m., but when he returned at 8:45 p.m. between Myrtle and Willoughby avenues, he discovered that someone had broken in through a second-floor opening.

The victim told police that the burglar stole \$400, his cellphone and two neckties and crosses.

## Stop that van!

A woman watched helplessly from her 14th-floor apartment on York Street as a thief stole her Dodge Caravan on June 20.

She later told cops that she was powerless to do anything as the thief drove away at 4:45 p.m. from her building, which is at Gold Street.

## 88TH PRECINCT

**Fort Greene-Clinton Hill**

## Scary park

Commonsense Barry Park was the scene of two crimes involving juveniles last week, including one horrific beating.

## Heavy metal

A weapon-wielding thug attacked a 23-year-old man on 79th Street on June 20.

Cops say that the victim was near Third Avenue at around 3 a.m. when he got into an argument with the other man, who then pulled an "unidentified metal object" and used it to slice up his victim.

**Jacked!**  
A thief stole the wallet of a gym rat in the New York Sports Club on Fourth Avenue and 86th Street on June 15.

The 24-year-old victim told police that he had locked the wallet in a locker while he worked out on June 20.

After an hour of sweating, he returned to find the locker broken and \$100, a VISA card, and an unidentified Metrocard missing from his wallet.

— **Thomas Nocera**

## YAY, PAP! Cody Uzman's restaurant broken into

### By Ben Muesig

The Brooklyn Paper

Bandits raided the beloved Manhattan Avenue Mexican restaurant Papacitos early on June 21 and escaped with a safe loaded with \$10,000.

The burglars scurried through backyards and scuffled over fences to reach the back door of the Greenpoint gacacnole denominated between 2 a.m. and 9:55 a.m.

The door might have been unlocked, according to cops.

Once inside, the crooks ransacked the eatery in search of the 250-pound safe, which contained cash that would have gone towards payroll and taxes.

"They maliciously trespassed up the back of the store and caused a lot of damage," said restaurateur Cody Uzman, the man also behind the recently opened futuristic bodega Brooklyn Standard.

"Taxes are due soon, so it's going to hurt a little, but we'll be OK."

After the break-in, Uzman revealed to Gothamist, a Web site, that he plans to expand Papacitos into an adjoining eatery and he insisted that the recent burglary won't stand in the way of those plans.

The thieves jugged the safe out the door and likely escaped to Huron Street, police reports indicated. No one was in the restaurant at the time.

## 76TH PRECINCT

**Carroll Gardens**  
Cobble Hill-Red Hook

## Paint it black

Police made two arrests earlier this month for graffiti "artists" defacing property in Red Hook and Carroll Gardens.

On June 8, an officer nabbed a 22-year-old man who was allegedly spray-painting a telephone pole on Coffey Street at 1:55 a.m.

The victim told police that he saw a man take the bike at 11:20 a.m. and ride away from the restaurant, which is at Old Fulton Street.

## Work it out

A thief stole \$1,140 in jewelry out of a locker at the New York Sports Club on Boorum Street on June 19.

The fitness fanatic told cops that she had begun working out at the gym, which is between Pacific and Dean streets, at 12:30 p.m. and returned to her locker an hour later to discover that she had been robbed — and burgled had.

## Stop that van!

A woman watched helplessly from her 14th-floor apartment on York Street as a thief stole her Dodge Caravan on June 20.

She later told cops that she was powerless to do anything as the thief drove away at 4:45 p.m. from her building, which is at Gold Street.

## 86TH PRECINCT

**Bay Ridge**

## McRobbed

A crook pilfered a woman's wallet after she left it unattended in a McDonald's on 86th Street on June 19.

The woman left her wallet in the fast food joint, which is between Fourth and Fifth avenues, at around 2:30 p.m. and faster than you can say "Gimme a double cheeseburger with cheese," the thief made the pick.

The wallet contained \$400, a credit card, and gift cards from Babies-R-Us and Children's Place.

## Heavy metal

A weapon-wielding thug attacked a 23-year-old man on 79th Street on June 20.

Cops say that the victim was near Third Avenue at around 3 a.m. when he got into an argument with the other man, who then pulled an "unidentified metal object" and used it to slice up his victim.

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## Acid attack

A sick crook doused two South Williamsburg kids with chemicals in a vicious attack on June 21.

The perp poured streaked a 12-year-old girl and a 10-year-old boy with a bottle containing an unknown liquid near the corner of South Eighth Street and Driggs Avenue at around 8:20 p.m., causing "irritation and burning," police reports indicated.

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## 90TH PRECINCT

**Williamsburg-Bushwick**  
Bridge mug

A bike-riding bad guy mugged a 31-year-old woman while she walked across the Williamsburg Bridge on June 16.

The pedal-pushing perp — who wore a bandana over his face during the stick-up — confronted the victim near the entrance of the park at the corner of 5th Street and Bedford Avenue at 10:30 p.m.

"What do you have?" the crook asked as he pulled out a black handgun.

The victim forked over \$100.

Cops nabbed four teenagers suspected of beating a 14-year-old camera on June 16.

The perps grabbed the victim's digital camera in the park at the corner of Lorimer Street and Throop Avenue at around 5:25 p.m., but police looked up four suspects as they attempted to flee the scene, reports indicated.

## Time crime

A knife-toting thug used a classic trick to rob two teens of their Sidekick cellphones on June 18.

The crook confronted the victims at the corner of Union Avenue and Wallabout Street at around 3:35 p.m. and asked the time.

When one of the victims removed his Sidekick from his pocket to check the time, the perp pulled out a knife and grabbed the teen.

The crook fled only after both of the victims handed over their fancy phones.

## Café snafu

A crook jacked a 28-year-old's laptop computer from a Haveresque Street diner on June 18.

The perp grabbed the MacBook from Atlas Cafe at around 11:05 a.m. and fled from the coffeehouse, which is between Hope and Grand streets, in a gray sedan.

## Bad delivery

Armed thugs held up a deliveryman in a terrifying June 21 stick-up.

The crooks — who wore red masks during the robbery — confronted the victim in the hallway of a Moore Street building and put a black firearm to his head.

The victim handed over \$100 and Chinese food (val-

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## Acid attack



# City's B'way Triangle plan moves forward, but not without a fight

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

The city's controversial plan to convert a large swath of manufacturing-zoned land in Williamsburg's "Broadway Triangle" into a residential community won its first approval from a community board panel on Tuesday.

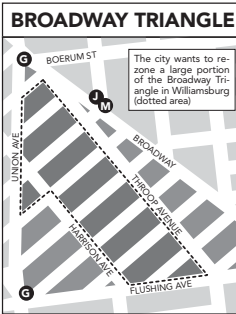
Community Board 1's land-use committee narrowly approved — though with significant stipulations — the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's contentious proposal to rezone the 31-acre portion of the triangle to create 1,851 units of housing, 955 of which would charge below-market rents.

The city's plan has been a divisive issue in Williamsburg, where the mostly industrial and commercial zone would give way to new residential buildings. Supporters tout the benefits of much-needed affordable housing while opponents allege corruption between the city and two politically connected neighborhood groups that have been awarded first dibs at affordable housing contracts.

At the heart of the conflict is the city's decision to award the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and the Bedford-Ridgewood Senior Citizens Council — two nonprofits tied to influential Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Brooklyn) — without putting the sites up for bid.

"This isn't about the community," said Esteban Duran, a CBI member and an adversary of the plan. "The community's voice was never heard."

The fight over the triangle turned volatile at a June 9 Community Board 1 meeting, where dozens of protesters literally muffled a city presentation with chants of "Open the process, shut them down," transforming the meeting into a cacophonous drum bust that the city can issue the so-called "sole-source dispositions" granting temporary site control to groups that "approach the city with a plan that seems feasible and involves seeking outside mon-



opponents allege corruption between the city and two politically connected neighborhood groups that have been awarded first dibs at affordable housing contracts.

"This area is pretty poor and needs housing," said Lopez. "I am in support of an expedited process so that we can move to build thousands of units of affordable housing. The people who need affordable housing should not have to wait for it because of self-interest."

## Other issues

Though the role of the nonprofits is at the center of the controversy, disagreements about the Broadway Triangle are so broad that they actually include the size of the site itself.

The city's proposal calls for a residential rezoning an eight-block site bordered by Throop Street, Flushing Avenue, Harrison Street, and Middleton Street, while opponents of the proposal want to see development in a larger area bounded by Broadway, Flushing Avenue, and Union Avenue — including a five-block plot at the southeastern corner of the site that is owned the pharmaceutical

giant Pfizer.

The city claims it decided to exclude the Pfizer plot — which is currently zoned for manufacturing — in the residential rezoning to avoid a spike in the property's value that could affect future land-use negotiations with the drug-maker.

"If we were to include it, it would kind of give a blank check to them," said Shampa Chandra, an H&W assistant commissioner. "The community loses its opportunity to

engage Pfizer in a larger discussion and get community benefits out of it."

It's not just the size of the site that's in question — it's also the size of the buildings.

Reversing the paradigm in many Brooklyn rezonings, opponents of the plan are demanding the city allow taller, bulkier buildings that could result in as many as 3,731 new residential units, 1,800 of them affordable.

But the city stands behind its eight-story cap as a means of contextual design — as well as a way to avoid severe impacts on neighborhood schools, open space and infrastructure.

Also controversial is the city's right to use eminent domain on residences and businesses in the Broadway Triangle, as well as the fact that only the 448-units of the zoned affordable housing that would be built on city-owned land must be developed on-site.

The remaining affordable units must be constructed or maintained outside within CB1.

## The board's recommendation

Taking some of these concerns into account, the Community Board 1 committee approved the project with suggested amendments including:

- a cap on the amount of

affordable housing built off-site.

- a "transparent" process to eliminate the no-bid contracts.

- a city fund to help relocate affected businesses.

- a guarantee that open space is created in the area.

The plan will face the CB1 full board next month before heading to the borough president, the City Planning Commission, and finally the City Council.

## Political fallout

The Broadway Triangle has become a key issue in the race for the 33rd Council District, where all six candidates — except for Steve Levin, who is Lopez's chief of staff — recently stated their opposition to the city's plan.

If Levin doesn't win the seat in November, it probably won't matter, given that the rezoning will likely face a vote before the election.

Current Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) supports the city's plan, but Councilwoman Diana Reyna (D-Williamsburg) — whose district abuts the property — is against it.

Typically, councilmembers defer to the local representative, but Yassky was recently snubbed by his Council colleagues, who ignored his opposition to the controversial 33rd Street project in his DUMBO district and approved it anyway.

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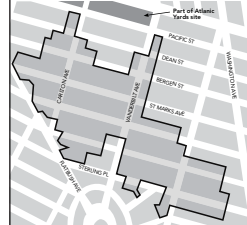
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# IT'S SAVED! Prospect Heights gets landmark zone

Proposed Prospect Heights Historic District



The proposed Prospect Heights Historic District has been approved by the city.

By Jacob Kleinman  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Prospect Heights has joined its better-known upscale neighbor Park Slope as Brooklyn's latest historic district. On Tuesday, the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted unanimously to turn the 850-building area into a protected historical landmark.

The vote capped an exhaustive, six-month survey — and was well-deserved for the often-overlooked neighborhood, explained Commission Chairman Robert Tierney. "It's a great day for New York City," Tierney proclaimed.

The district stretches from Flatbush Avenue to Washington Avenue and from Eastern Parkway to Atlantic Avenue — up to, but not including, Bruce Ratner's proposed mega-development, formerly known as Atlantic Yards until this week's announcement that most of the project had been tabled (see page 1).

At the start of the landmarking process, locals worried that the massive project, as well as the neighborhood's many deep lofts, would encourage high-rise construction that would overwhelm the mostly low-rise feel of the historic area.

Prospect Heights is one of Brooklyn's oldest and most architecturally fascinating neighborhoods, boasting a mix of rowhouses built throughout the 19th century.

The neighborhood's two oldest buildings are on Carlton Avenue between St. Marks Avenue and Bergen Street, and date back to at least the 1850s.

The district also includes a series of Neo-Grec rowhouses built in the 1860s and '70s, as well as Romanesque and Renaissance Revival houses from the 1880s and '90s.

But old buildings aren't the only thing that the neighborhood has going for it, said Tierney.

"Prospect Heights is among Brooklyn's most distinguished cohesive neighborhoods because of its architectural integrity and diversity, scale, tree-lined streets and residential character," the chairman said.

This week's vote followed a public hearing last October at which no one spoke against the designation, which is rare in this city.



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## Take a stroll on Flatbush Ave

Group proposes ways to make byway pedestrian-friendly

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Flatbush Avenue would become a walkable, livable, shoppable boulevard — no, really! — under a new plan being put forward by a local business group that is frustrated by the poor, traffic-choked strip between Grand Army Plaza and Atlantic Avenue.

The North Flatbush Business Improvement District will soon solicit bids on its architect's plan for turning the concrete jungle from an uninviting and unsafe highway to "a people-friendly destination," said BID Executive Director Sharon Davidson, who presented the plan to local merchants at the group's annual meeting on Wednesday night at Ocean's 8 pool hall.

The problem with Flatbush, Brooklyn's oldest thoroughfare, is that its diagonal configuration cuts across seven streets between Atlantic Avenue and Grand Army Plaza, creating tiny "triangle parks" that are little more than cement pits.

"We haven't had a facelift since the 1970s," Davidson said. "We should be more of a destination than a conduit to Downtown Brooklyn."

Using a grant from the city, Davidson's group hired W Architecture and Landscape Architecture, a Manhattan-based firm that wants to turn the triangles into seating areas and to calm traffic on side streets by installing plants. It's unclear how much the work itself will cost, but Davidson said Borough President Markowitz has pledged \$200,000, bringing the group's cash-on-hand up to \$600,000, thanks to prior grants.

http:// More pictures at  
BrooklynPaper.com



**TAMING THE MEAN STREET:** The North Flatbush Business Improvement District has hired an architect to make the meanest of the mean streets more friendly. Here's their vision of a safer Dean Street (above) and Park Place (below).



## BAILOUT...

Continued from page 1

entire project — and more loopholes to net build. In the "modified general project plan," the ESDC admitted that it is only currently moving to acquire the eight-acre site above the rail yards at the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, while the remaining 14 acres are off the table indefinitely.

For now, the ESDC is sticking to the line that the full "Atlantic Yards" project will someday be built.

"The remainder of the site will be acquired when necessary for development," Steve Matlin, the ESDC's counsel, told the agency's board on Tuesday.

The "remainder" includes the vast majority of the 2,250 below-market-rate housing and open space that was part of the project when it was originally approved in December, 2006 — key public benefits that greased the approval process of the highly controversial project.

Under the new plan, Ratner would complete the project by 2019, but the pact is also laced with escape clauses that allow the developer to walk away or postpone what was once supposed to be a 22-acre mega-project in Prospect Heights. The developer need only cite "adverse economic conditions ... over an extensive period of time," according to a memo describing the deal.

Matlin said a new deal was a do-or-die situation.

"Without these changes, the project cannot move forward," Matlin said.

MTA board members used the same kind of language in their 10-2 vote the next day.

"This is actually [still] a good win," said Jeff Kay, a board member.

But one of the two "no" votes on the board said the transit agency was not getting the best deal.

"The only issue facing me is whether the MTA is getting a fair market deal for its property," said board member Mitchell Pally. "I did not believe it four years ago when I voted against it, and I believe the same thing today."

Local elected officials were also troubled by the vote. "This is a massive giveaway of our public assets," said Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights).

"They've reduced the [amount of] affordable housing, the open space is off the table, and the capacity of the rail yards is smaller. It's literally a disappearing act."

Forest City Ratner Vice President Bruce Bender dismissed the notion that the project was being "bailed out" by state officials.

"This is not a bailout," he told The Brooklyn Paper. "The changes made this week were necessary to advance this project to closing this fall."

"This is an economic stimulus for the borough," he added. "If we can put a shovel in the ground, that's a tremendous thing for Brooklyn."

Ratner must begin work on the arena before the end of the year or risk a large cost increase when new federal tax rules governing the use of bonds for stadium deals go into effect.

Many merchants support the proposed arena because it is expected to generate lots of foot traffic on the 41 nights when the future Brooklyn Nets are playing at home.

"It's much needed in the evening hours," said Alan Rosen, the owner of Junior's restaurant.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 26, 2009



The Brooklyn Paper / John Street

The Brooklyn Paper / John Street



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# RINGLING WAR!

One circus, two reviewers, three-ring mayhem



The Brooklyn Paper / John Street

## 'Greatest show' misses the mark

If there is one single moment in the new Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey production under the big top in Coney Island that captures the flaw of this one-ring circus, it's midway through the first act, when the stunning Diana Vedyashkina walks onto the stage surrounded by rats.

Oh, sorry, they were not rats. They were dachshunds.

Were they cute? Of course. Where they talented? Absolutely. Could they do feats of acrobatics of which I was incapable even as a young virile man? Certainly.

But were they virtually impossible to see? Alas, yes.

Vedyashkina's canine calisthenics were



**Dooley Noted**

By Thurston Dooley III

just one example of a Ringling Brothers show that could neither fill expectations nor the big tent next to the A&S Stark ice rink.

The show's scale and grandeur is almost always off. The second act, for example, opens with workers installing a

See DOOLEY on page 11

## Dooley's wrong! This circus rocks

**The Butcher of Flatbush Ave. Extension**

By Mike McLaughlin

If you attend the "Boom A Ring" circus on Coney Island and don't have a good time, you don't have a soul.

I say that because it had been 19 years, give or take, since I last saw a circus, and as I entered the big top for the first time as an adult, I wondered if I'd outgrown the juvenile passions to which the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey performance caters.

Lo and behold, I had not. Contrary to what others might think, I'm pleased to say that the "Boom A Ring" extravaganza proves that I'm still young at heart, which is more than I can say for the curmudgeonly reviewer by my colleague Thurston Dooley III.

Going to the circus is not just a mandatory chore for parents. Though heavily merchandised now, the spirit of P.T. Barnum's upstart circus pervades the tented spectacle and offers a much-needed break from routine evening excursions, like dinner and a movie.

The circus's main appeal are the stunts with a high risk factor. Nothing says "fun" like watching another human imperil his own life. The Los Solistas trio is poised under fire on the rotating double gyroscope.



The Brooklyn Paper / John Street

Toss up: The big top was filled with thrills, chills at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey "Boom A Ring" production in Coney Island.

And the element of danger is even more thrilling in the antics of Lina Anzola and her flight on the chair swing and rope.

See BUTCHER on page 11

### COFFEE

## Happy joe

The coffee is fantastic. The servers are friendly. And there are flowers on the wall.

So why is Park Slope's newest java bar called

"Cafe Grumpy?"



The Brooklyn Paper

"We named our first location [in 2005] as a sarcastic comment on the snooty espresso culture a few years ago," said co-owner Caroline Bell (pictured).

That Greenpoint location led to a second coffee shrine in Manhattan in 2006 — the Chelsea shop where none other than Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz had a cup of Cafe Grumpy joe, brewed in one of those \$10,000 Clover machines, and promptly bought the appliance maker.

Yes, Cafe Grumpy coffee is that good. Bell and her husband Chris Timbrell offer a revolving slate of meticulously selected beans — including a Costa Rican Monte Cristo (with hints of "nuts and red berries") — that are all ground to order on the spot.

And you can taste the berries. But this ain't diner joe: prices start at \$2.25 for a 12-ounce cup.

Bell lives in Park Slope, so she knows that there are at least 700 places within three blocks of Cafe Grumpy to get a cup of coffee, but she thinks her little cafe — which offers Blue Sky Bakery muffins and nothing else — is doing something unique.

"We're not a place to type away at your laptop or get lunch," she said. "We're a place to get a great cup of coffee."

Cafe Grumpy (383 Seventh Ave., between 11th and 12th streets in Park Slope, no phone yet).

— Gersh Kuntzman

### MUSIC

## 'Fix' is in

Yes, one of Brooklyn's best record stores is moving out of its home of five years, but Sound Fix owner James Bradley has some good news for his customers, too: Live music performances will return!

In-store appearances at the Bedford Avenue vinyl-and-CDemporium helped define Sound Fix — until neighbors complained and the shows were halted.

They'll return at the Berry Street location.

"Record stores all over the nation [have live music]," said Bradley (pictured). "Why can't we?"

Bradley also hopes to expand the listening section of the store, which he feels is too cramped in the current location.

The new store will open in early September in a building that will also house a wine bar, a BBQ restaurant and a dance club.

Sound Fix [for now at 110 Bedford Ave. at N. 11th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 388-8900]. Opening in September at 44 Berry St. at N. 11th Street.

— Jacob Kleinman

### MUSIC



## Indie day

Forget the BBQ and drop those hot dogs this Fourth of July — and get ready for a real celebration of indie-pennance.

On July 3 and 4, the two leading indie record labels in Brooklyn — Woodstock and Captured Tracks — will join forces to bring a legendary assemblage of indie bands to the 979 Broadway Backyard.

The show will feature both veterans and newcomers to the indie scene, including the groundbreaking Crystal Stilts and the harmonious, rhythmic twister of the Vivian Girls (pictured).

Sure, you'll miss the fireworks on July 4, but the fest is full of musical pyrotechnics, including The Oh Sees, Kid Romance, the Beets, and the Beachiniks.

It's going to be a garage-rock classic, so get your tickets now.

"Woodstock/Captured Tracks Fest" at the 979 Broadway Backyard (979 Broadway between Myrtle Avenue and Ditmars Street in Bushwick). Tickets are \$15 per day (\$27 for both days). For info, visit [www.last.fm/event/1077419](http://www.last.fm/event/1077419).

— Thomas Nocera

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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY  
June 26

**A dog's day**

Every dog has his day. And today is that day, a day when dog owners are invited to Prospect Park for an inter-species potluck! It'll be a tail-wagging good time as man and beast put aside their differing approach to table manners. There'll also be games (three-legged race, anyone?) so you can show off your pooch's skills. Losers are requested not to bite the winners (the dogs should behave, too).

5 pm, Nethermead (enter park at Prospect Park South and 16th Street). For info, visit [www.fidobrooklyn.com](http://www.fidobrooklyn.com).

SATURDAY  
June 27

**Mamma mia!**

Fine Italian food prepared by an expert chef for cheap! Now that's a spicy deal! Chow down on some virtuosos prepared by world-renowned chef Cesare Casella (pictured) while enjoying a jazz concert in Empire-Fulton State Park. The suggested donation is just \$12, and \$10 more gets you one of the chef's picnic baskets.

3 pm, Rosalia de Souza concert and Italian picnic, Empire-Fulton State Park (Plymouth Street and Main Street in DUMBO). \$12. For info, visit [www.journeystolocalcitya.org](http://www.journeystolocalcitya.org).

5 pm, Nethermead (enter park at Prospect Park South and 16th Street). For info, visit [www.fidobrooklyn.com](http://www.fidobrooklyn.com).

SUNDAY  
June 28

**Just do it**

"Do the Right Thing" remains Spike Lee's master work — and you can see it tonight, outdoors, for free at Habana Outpost. You remember the story, of course. It's the hottest day of the year and racial tensions boil over. Sal's Pizzeria is consumed in the resulting conflagration. Did Mookie do the right thing? Even two decades later, it's tough to tell.

8 pm, "Do the Right Thing," Habana Outpost (727 Fulton St. at 5th Street, between 5th and 6th). \$5-\$10. For info, visit [www.habanaoutpost.com](http://www.habanaoutpost.com).

THURSDAY  
July 2

**Music-copia!**

Who hasn't been to a concert and said to himself, "Man, I really wish there was a show out there where I would have multiple genres of music played to slake my unquenchable musical thirst?" Well your prayers have been answered as "genre-bending-artist" Toshi Reagon comes Downtown. There's never a dull moment at a Reagon show. Rock out, dance and sing the blues, all in the same show — and all for free.

Noon, Toshi Reagon at MetroTech Commons (Fifth Avenue and 14th Street in Downtown). Free. For info, visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

Noon, Nathan's Surf Avenue at Stillwell Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 352-8651. For info, visit [www.ficcc.com](http://www.ficcc.com).

SATURDAY  
July 4

**Man eat dog**

It's finally here: the rematch you've all been waiting for: Joey "Jaws" Chestnut (pictured) against Takeru Kobayashi. Yes, Chestnut has beaten Kobayashi twice, but never count out the man they call "the Tsunami" for at least they did until that tsunami a few years ago. Kobayashi, Chestnut, and a Pizza Hut P'zone-eating contest — and if that doesn't say, "I'm ready to eat 70 hot dogs in 10 minutes," nothing does.

Noon, Nathan's Surf Avenue at Stillwell Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 352-8651. For info, visit [www.ficcc.com](http://www.ficcc.com).

# FREE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

**FRI, JUNE 26**

**PUPNIC:** Dog (and human) picnic, with potluck food, games, contests and more. Free. 5-7 pm, Nethermead (Enter park at Prospect Park South and 16th Street in Red Hook). [www.fidobrooklyn.com](http://www.fidobrooklyn.com).

**THEATER, "MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING":** Outdoor performance of Shakespeare's comedy, now set in the world of baseball. Free. 6 pm, Red Hook Park (Bay Street and Henry Street in Red Hook). [www.theatermanhattan.com](http://www.theatermanhattan.com).

**ART OPENING:** Drawings by Raymond Byrne. Free. 6-9 pm, Brooklyn Artists Guild 1168 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus. (718) 858-9069, [brooklynartistsguild.com](http://brooklynartistsguild.com).

**ART OPENING:** Photographs by David Lee. Part of the "Brooklyn Honors Spike Lee" festival. Free. 6-9 pm, Brooklyn Historical Society 1168 Pierpont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 222-4111, [www.wheresam.com](http://www.wheresam.com).

**ART OPENING:** Paintings by Lauriston Avery. Free. 6-9 pm, The Hogar Collection 342 Grand St. at Haver Street in Williamsburg. (718) 388-5022, [www.hogarcollection.com](http://www.hogarcollection.com).

**FILM, "FROM NIGHT IN MISSISSIPPI":** Documentary about segregation. \$11. 6:30 pm, Brooklyn Academy of Music 30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene. (718) 636-4100, [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**THEATER, "SCHADEN, FREUDE AND YOU — A THREE-CLOWN SEMINAR":** Part of the Antidressant Festival. \$5. 7 pm, Brick Theater 575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg. (718) 6189, [www.bricktheater.com](http://www.bricktheater.com).

**BOOK RELEASE PARTY:** Photographer Mark Borthwick's "Not in Fashion." With live music by Will Shine and Friends. Free. 7 pm, BookCourt 163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Coney Island. (718) 875-3671, [www.bookcourt.org](http://www.bookcourt.org).

**POETRY INSPIRED BY SPIKE LEE:** Part of the "Brooklyn Honors Spike Lee" festival. Free. 7 pm, Brooklyn Historical Society 1168 Pierpont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 222-4111, [www.wheresam.com](http://www.wheresam.com).

**MUSIC, BLONDE REDHEAD:** \$3 (suggested). 7:30 pm, Prospect Park band shell (Enter at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Prospect Park). [www.brooklyn.org](http://www.brooklyn.org) celebrates.

**THEATER, "IN THE SHADOW OF THE LIGHTHOUSE":** \$15 (12 seniors and children). Gallery Players 1199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope. (212) 352-3101, [www.galleryplayers.com](http://www.galleryplayers.com).

**THEATER, "IN CONCLUSIVE WOMAN":** One-woman, multi-media show by Julie Rae Pratt. \$20-\$15 (seniors and seniors). 8 pm, Ryan Repertory Theatre 2445 Bath Ave. at Bay 38th Street in Bensonhurst. (718) 996-4800, [inconclusivewoman.com](http://inconclusivewoman.com).

**MON, JUNE 29**

**Brooklyn Libertarian Party** Candidates night with party prizes for all citywide offices. Free. 7 pm, Seaview Jewish Center (1585 East 96th St. in Canarsie).

**TUES, JUNE 30**

**Community Board 1 Budget Committee.** Monthly meeting. On the agenda: District needs statement. 6:30 pm, Community Board 1 office 1435 Graham Ave. between Fifth and Richardson streets in Williamsburg. (718) 389-0009.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail [Newroom@logical.com](mailto:Newroom@logical.com)

**WED, JULY 1**

**Columbia Street Waterfront Neighborhood Association.** Quarterly meeting. 7 pm, Jalopy (315 Columbia St. at Woodluff Street in the Columbia Street Waterfront District). (917) 412-0756, [www.jalopy.biz](http://www.jalopy.biz).

**THURS, JULY 2**

**Park Slope Civic Council.** Monthly meeting. New York Methodist Hospital (506 Sixth St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope). (718) 833-8277.

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See 9 DAYS on page 10





Rock cakes: Robicelli's owner (and spouses) Matthew and Allison Robicelli make some great cupcakes (including one Elvis-inspired variety with candied bacon).



The Brooklyn Paper Photo: Peter DeLuca

# Cupcake king

*Deli finds the sweet path to success*

By Jacob Kleinman  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Robicelli's Gourmet Market has found the perfect cure for the recession blues: cupcakes. The year-old Third Avenue grocery was struggling month-to-month until married co-owners Matthew and Allison Robicelli started making their own baked goods.

Now, they can barely keep up with demand — and that's in a neighborhood known, believe it or not, for its exemplary cupcakes, such as those crafted at the Little Cupcake Bakeshop (further down Third Avenue and at the Ivy Bakery on 87th Street).

"I traveled two hours on the subway to try these cupcakes, and I will gladly travel two hours again to get another one," one customer told

Robin Robicelli the other day. These aren't just boring old chocolate, vanilla or red velvet treats. The Robicellis have put their experience as gourmet chefs to use, crafting what have become known as Bay Ridge's best — and only — "extreme" cupcakes. The snacks have earned their name for cramming various far-flung ingredients into a single dessert (see chart below).

Every week, the deli offers up a different selection. From Allison's classic carrot cupcake to her husband's most adventurous creation, the Elvis, which comprises a banana cupcake, peanut butter frosting and candied bacon bits.

It's all icing on the cake now, but it didn't look good at first. The day Robicelli's opened on Sept. 28, 2008. The next day, the stock mar-

ket dropped 686 points. The Robicellis got back to work, maintaining a nice selection of prepared foods, gourmet groceries and cheeses, and organic deli meats, but the future did not look bright.

Robicelli suggested that they start baking pastries, which soon led to dispute over who could craft the best cupcakes.

They "battled" it out — and customers won. Nowadays, The Robicellis bake a batch in the morning, and all the cupcakes are gone in hours.

Robicelli's (8511 Third Ave., between 85th and 86th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-6804); Ivy Bakery (278 87th St., at Third Avenue, (718) 833-1626); Little Cupcake Bakeshop (9102 Third Ave., at 91st Street, (718) 680-4465).

## RIDGE CUPCAKE WAR!

Move over Magnolia, Bay Ridge has not one, not two, but three bakeries vying for best cupcake. We put the Little Cupcake Bakeshop, Ivy Bakery and Robicelli's Gourmet Market in the ring together and let them battle it out:

BAKERY	ROBICELLI'S	IVY	LITTLE CUPCAKE
Cupcake approach	Quirky and selective. The "Elvis" consists of a banana cupcake with peanut butter icing and candied bacon bits on top. Favors a soft, light icing style.	More than 20 daily selections, and the red velvet is the best we've ever tasted. Icing is sugary, but not too heavy.	Bowls you over with a wide variety, including the standards and some deluxe models, such as an excellent German chocolate cake. Icing is buttery.
Totally fabricated Zapp! write up	"Oh my God" these cupcakes are good, thanks to their "very light" frosting. The combinations will "blow your mind" though the cake is "a little dry."	These "perfect cupcakes" combine "child-like sugaryness" and "high-end craftsmanship." They're so "soft and fluffy" that one is "never enough."	The "sweetest" cupcakes in Bay Ridge, they are "delicious," even if they're "a little heavy."

## Sandwich star

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

The banh mi sandwich is a symbol of French colonialism in Vietnam, then the Polish-style banh mi at Silent H in Williamsburg is an emblem of the gentrification of North Brooklyn.

Just as the most adamant anti-imperialists can agree that the banh



The Brooklyn Paper Photo: Peter DeLuca



The Brooklyn Paper Photo: Peter DeLuca

mi is a cross-cultural culinary triumph, all Brooklynites — no matter their perspective on the influx of young, arty, and increasingly wealthy residents in the Polish com-

munity — can agree that this sandwich is marvelous. The so-called "Greenpoint" banh mi (86-50) starts like any Vietnamese sandwich: with a fresh French-

guette layered with pickled carrots and daikon, which give the sandwich a light, slightly sweet, summery taste.

Next, add a coat of Vietnamese aioli, a few diced jalapeno peppers, several strips of cilantro, and a slathering of pate and you're on your way to the classic vari-

eties of banh mi that are popular at Brooklyn joints like Hanco's, Nicky's, and Ba Xuyen.

But instead of topping it off with Vietnamese cold cuts a la Ho Chi

Minh City, the chefs at Silent H draw their influence from Huroon Street by incorporating sliced Greenpoint kid-bias — turning this multi-national, pan-ethnic, post-racial sandwich into a veritable melting pot on bread.

The result is a richer, smokier Vietnamese sandwich that doesn't compromise the banh mi's refreshing flavor.

A sandwich this good makes you wish the French had invaded Poland, too. Silent H (79 Berry Street between N. Ninth and N. 10th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 218-7063). Lunch only, Closed Monday.

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FRI • 7/17 • 7:30

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Amina Koomson | Yvonne Doreth  
American Express Music Series  
SAT • 7/18 • 2:00-9:00

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# 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8  
band shell Enter park at Prospect Park West and North Street in Prospect Park. [www.brooklynpaper.com/celebrate](http://www.brooklynpaper.com/celebrate).

**THEATER, "AND THE FEAR CRACKED OPEN."** Part of the Antisocial Festival. \$15. 8 pm. Brick Theater (375 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189). [www.bricktheater.com](http://www.bricktheater.com).

**THEATER, "IN THE SHADOW OF THE LIGHTHOUSE."** See Friday, June 26.

**CLASSICAL CONCERT:** St.

Petersburg Quartet presents works by Schubert, Beethoven and Chausson. See Friday, June 26.

**THEATER, "A NIGHT OF ONE ACTS."** 8 pm. See Friday, June 26.

**MUSIC, OMAR TALMON AND MILES OKAZAKI:** \$10. 9 pm. Beam Music Studio 168 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus. [www.beammusic.com](http://www.beammusic.com).

**THEATER, "SCHADEN FREUDE AND YOU":** 10 pm. See Friday, June 26.

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**PS 321 FLEA MARKET:** Free. 9 am-5 pm. PS 321 schoolyard Seventh Avenue and First Street

in Park Slope). [www.parksideflea.com](http://www.parksideflea.com).

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS IN MC-CARREN PARK:** Free. 10 am-6 pm. McCarren Park (Bedford Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg). [www.artistandfleas.com](http://www.artistandfleas.com).

**BROOKLYN FLEA:** Free. 10 am-5 pm. Bishop Loughlin HS (357 Clermont Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene). [www.brooklynflea.com](http://www.brooklynflea.com).

**BROOKLYN FLEA MARKET:** Free. 10 am-5 pm. (194 20th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Greenwood Heights, (347) 596-9614). [www.brooklynflea.com](http://www.brooklynflea.com).

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS:** Free. 11 am-4 pm. (129 N. Sixth St. between Bedford Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg). [www.artistandfleas.com](http://www.artistandfleas.com).

**BROOKLYN INDE MARKET:** Free. 11 am-7 pm. Smith Street at Union Street in Carroll Gardens). [www.brooklynindemkt.com](http://www.brooklynindemkt.com).

**FORT GREENE STOOP:** SALE DAY: Visit Web site for map. Free. 11 am-4 pm. Pick up map at Fort Greene SNAP (324 Myrtle Ave. between Washington Park and Carleton Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 935-0490). [www.fortgreeneap.org](http://www.fortgreeneap.org).

**LESBIAN HERITORY ARCHIVES OPEN HOUSE:** Free. Noon-4 pm. Lesbian Herstory Archives (484 14th St. between Eighth and Ninth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3953). [www.lesbianherstory.org](http://www.lesbianherstory.org).

**NYC ZINE FEST:** Free. Noon-7 pm. Brooklyn Museum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 627-4816). [www.nyczinefest.org](http://www.nyczinefest.org).

**ART OPENING:** Outdoor sculpture show with new work by Don Porcino, Reade Bryan and Scott Sunny Park. Free. 2-5 pm. Art List 206 Columbus St. at Sackett Street in Columbia Street Waterfront.

**SOUTHSIDE GALLERY TOURS:** Sponsored by the Williamsburg Gallery Association. \$10. 2-3:30 pm. Tours begin at the

VGA table (Bedford Avenue between N. Fifth and N. Sixth streets in Williamsburg). [www.raumag.org/williamsburgvga.html](http://www.raumag.org/williamsburgvga.html).

**FATHER AND SON BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT:** Part of the "Brooklyn Honors Spike Lee" festival. Free. 5-9 pm. McLaughlin Park (111 Myrtle St. between Leonard Street and Manhattan Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 410-7277). [whereismars.com](http://whereismars.com).

**ART OPENING:** "Vertical Penmanship," a group show.

**OTHER**

**IRISH FESTIVAL:** Irish music, dancing, sports and culture. \$15 (\$10 before 4 pm, kids free). 11 am. Astor Sports and Recreation, Flood/Borrell Field (3159 Flatbush Ave. in Marine Park, (718) 768-7013). [astorsports.com](http://astorsports.com).

**OPEN STUDIO:** Work by Benetto Rudolph. Free. 11 am-6 pm. 457 Third St. between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-4826). [www.bennettstudio.com](http://www.bennettstudio.com).

**WILLIAMSBURG WALKS:** Bedford Avenue is closed to cars. Live music, children's activities and more. Free. 12 pm. (Bedford Avenue between N. Fourth and N. Ninth streets in Williamsburg). [www.bllburg.com/walks](http://www.bllburg.com/walks).

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Big issues: This weekend is your last chance to catch "In Conclusive Woman" at Ryan Rep. It runs through June 28.

WGA table (Bedford Avenue between N. Fifth and N. Sixth streets in Williamsburg). [www.raumag.org/williamsburgvga.html](http://www.raumag.org/williamsburgvga.html).

**FATHER AND SON BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT:** Part of the "Brooklyn Honors Spike Lee" festival. Free. 5-9 pm. McLaughlin Park (111 Myrtle St. between Leonard Street and Manhattan Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 410-7277). [whereismars.com](http://whereismars.com).

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Walking Tour. \$15 (\$12 students and seniors). 1 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery (Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park, (212) 459-1090). [www.brooklynpaper.com](http://www.brooklynpaper.com).

**KAYAK RED HOOK:** Canoe or kayak within the protected park pier area and help clean the shoreline. Free. 1-5 pm. Valentino Pier Park (Coffey Street, near 14th Street in Red Hook). [www.redhookparks.org](http://www.redhookparks.org).

**DISCOVERY TOUR:** See Saturday, June 27.

**PERFORMANCE**

**JAZZ WITH ZACK O'FARRILL QUARTET:** \$6. 12 pm. Puppet's Jazz Bar (461 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope, (718) 499-2423). [www.puppetsjazz.com](http://www.puppetsjazz.com).

**JAZZ OUTDOORS:** With Willie Martinez La Familia Sextet, Dave Swelven, Two Daves and Nick Quinn's Lotus 9. Free. 2 pm. Cabrini Green Urban Meadow (17 President St. at Van Brunt Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (917) 751-9347). [myspace.com/redhookstreet](http://myspace.com/redhookstreet).

**THEATER, "GLEE CLUB":** Part of the Antisocial Festival. \$15. 3 pm. Brick Theater (375 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189). [www.bricktheater.com](http://www.bricktheater.com).

**THEATER, "IN THE SHADOW OF THE LIGHTHOUSE":** See Friday, June 26.

**THEATER, "SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE — RX":** 3 pm. See Saturday, June 27.

**THEATER, "IN CONCLUSIVE WOMAN":** 3 pm. See Friday, June 26.

**CLASSICAL CONCERT:** Fischer Quartet presents works by Haydn, Bartok and Brahms. \$35 (\$20 students). 3 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-0383). [www.bargemusic.org](http://www.bargemusic.org).

**MUSIC, "THE MEDIUM":** Gian Carlo Menotti's noir opera. \$20. 4 pm. Polish Slavic Center (117 Kent St. between Franklin Street and Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 312-8064). [www.operagogy.com](http://www.operagogy.com).

**MUSIC, VERGE:** Psychedelic comedy band. Free. 4 pm. Boardwalk Surf Avenue and W. 21st Street in Coney Island). [www.weirdos.com/enlighten](http://www.weirdos.com/enlighten).

**THEATER, "SAMUEL AND ALASDAIR — A PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE ROBOT WAR":** See Saturday, June 27.

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**PS 321 FLEA MARKET:** See Saturday, June 27.

**BROOKLYN FLEA MARKET:** See 9 DAYS on page 13

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# The Brooklyn Paper

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## Surprise! Teen Spirit is 18

Teen Spirit turned 18 last week, but Smartmom didn't figure out how to celebrate the big milestone.

They suggested a birthday dinner at Daisy's Diner, his favorite local restaurant, but Teen Spirit already had plans to party with his friends.

They suggested a birthday breakfast at Donuts Coffee Shop on Seventh Avenue, his favorite breakfast spot, but Teen Spirit had a gig with the Mighty Handful that day.

The birthday and the day after passed by, and Smartmom and Hepcat barely saw their son, who was now eligible to vote and serve in the military.

On Saturday night, Smartmom got an e-mail from one of Teen Spirit's good friends, "Teen Spirit's Surprise Party" was on the subject line. That got Smartmom's attention.

"Teen Spirit" requested that someone throw him a

surprise party for his birthday and I said absolutely not. Naturally, this meant I am throwing one! I have an idea for a plan, but I have to run it by you first."

Smartmom knew what was coming, but she was glad that her son's friend was "running it by her first."

"I am going to come over tomorrow in the late morning/noon and take him out of the house. Around 1:30, people will start showing up at the house. Then, at 2 p.m., I will bring him back. Surprise! Then we will go to Prospect Park to have a picnic and play music for each other. Is this plan all right?"

Smartmom had a mixed reaction. Her heart was warmed because Teen Spirit told his friend that he wanted a surprise party. But then she wondered guiltily whether she and Hepcat should have planned one. But she knew deep down that he didn't want his par-



By Louise Crawford

ents (gross, cutesy) to throw him a surprise party.

Still, it surprised her that he wanted a surprise since he'd been playing his birthday down. Smartmom didn't know that he cared.

Smartmom was also touched that his friend was going out of her way to give Teen Spirit his wish.

The only thing that made Smartmom nervous was that unspecified number of kids were coming over to the tiny apartment.

Sure, Teen Spirit has a

the idea of 10 or 20 of them in her dining room was unimpressive. What would they drink? Would they drink? Would they drink?

Smartmom gulped back to the friend, telling her that she was on board with the surprise party, but needing more information — primarily, how many kids should she expect.

"Right now on Facebook, it says that 13 people are coming, but that's just Facebook," the friend wrote back. "It is safe to say somewhere between 13 and 20."

Facebook? The invite was already on Facebook? And 13 people had already RSVP'd. Yikes. Now Smartmom was panicked. She immediately went out to Seventh Avenue to buy all of Teen Spirit's favorite

party foods: tortilla chips, spicy salsa and Mug Root Beer. Since he doesn't like birthday cake, Smartmom bought two pounds of rainbow cookies at D'Vice Taste.

The next day, Smartmom had an early appointment and left Hepcat in charge. "I'll watch over this surprise party thing," he told Smartmom. Teen Spirit's surprise party and the scariest of the house bright and early to be with friends.

Unfortunately, Smartmom wasn't home at the moment of the surprise party. She called Teen Spirit's friend from the street and the party of about 12 kids squeezed into Teen Spirit's tiny bedroom with balloons and yelled, "Surprise!" when he came in.

When Smartmom got to the apartment, the kids were

never wanted to be. Like badness or nose-picking. I hope I won't pass on to my kids the things I don't like about myself. Yet here, with my puppy, I am seeing my failures.

Of course, it could just be their ages. My teenager doesn't have patience when the dog's schedule gets her way. She feels the same way about homework and me. My tween is busy making sense of the world, sorting out new freedoms like jumping to the store by herself. Rules seem to give her security — walk on Henry not Hicks — and provide

after her ever-expanding world. My daughters feed and water the dog. His face is the wallpaper of our ceiling.

They are gentle and caring and special to him in sweet tones. All in all, they're not doing so badly. I could just be my insecurities as a father spilling out. With kids, you don't know how you're doing until it's too late to fix.

With a dog, either he sees or he doesn't. I pondered this as I walked Wilson, anxious to get home to coffee and newspaper and my children on Fathers Day.

interloper hoping to perform. This unnecessary plot continues until the bandleader feigns that there are some "technical difficulties," and Case is, finally, summoned to do his act.

As my younger colleague Mike McLaughlin points out in his "review," Case does not disappoint once he gets his chance. His acrobatics atop a rattapatt bicycle are a self show-stopper, but Case performs them while cracking jokes and, more important, bringing the "ol' Ringling spirit" to the proceedings.

Later, he rode a tiny, palm-sized bicycle through a ring of fire. It was a great bit. Case doesn't entirely save this oft-killed show, but he comes close.

Finally, a few practical notes: There are many bad seats under this big top. Avoid sections A4, A1 and C1 (you'll be head-pat-pat). Insist on sections A2, A3, B2 and C2.

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## His 'dog days of parenting

On Fathers Day, I did not sleep late or relax in bed with the coffee and newspaper that my darling children had brought me. Instead, I rushed outside with plastic bags sticking out of my pants pockets and picked up after the dog that joined our family since last Fathers Day. His name is Wilson and he is a golden retriever, a pain in the butt. In fact, this creature's act has pretty much followed the stereotypical script involving the chaos of a home littered with squeaky, rubber toys that I trip over; and children who swore on everything sacred that they would help with the walking, feeding and cleaning up after the dog, but now would rather watch reruns of "The Simpsons" than put on their shoes and drag the dog around the block.

I expected all of this. So the true surprise for me has been watching my two daughters raising their puppy. My 14-year-old loves Wilson's affection. She loves that he licks her face whenever given the chance. She wants to hold him while she watches TV or plunks away on Facebook. And she always wants him to sleep in her room.



By Scott Sager

My 11-year-old has trouble letting Wilson be on the floor. She picks him up and holds him at every opportunity. This may be an age thing since her friends are all doing the same, passing the poor pup around, nuzzling him with their hugs. My daughter wants him to follow rules, she's the one ready to tell him, to discipline him when he has an accident, to take away the stuffed animal he has stolen from her bed.

Seeing them with Wilson, I feel I am seeing the first hint of the parents they will be. Of course I have feelings about their growing up, that they are approaching all that adult stuff — relationships, sex, jobs, bills, families — and it is all coming too fast. But what I really worry about is how their parenting our puppy reflects their parents and mine. And in those moments, when they are harsh with poor Wil-

son or worse, ignore him, I fear I am seeing my own failures as a parent played for my viewing pleasure.

When my teenager says the dog doesn't love her anymore because he only licks her nose 100 times a day, yesterday, I'm ready to blame this insecurity on my not saying, "I love you" enough. When Wilson wants to play and she ignores him because he is too tired or busy texting, I fear I'm watching her play out a scene from our relationship. When my younger daughter speaks to Wilson with a certain tone, telling him he's gotten dirty and needs a bath or has done something misdeed, I hear my own rigid authority and I cringe.

I have parenting *déjà vu* sometimes. I might go into one of their closets looking for some missing piece of clothing and end up pulling out piles of wadded up T-shirts, socks and unidentified fabric. Then words come out of my mouth like, "I can't believe you haven't cleaned your closet. How can you live like this? I can't even look in there it makes me so sick." I hear these words and wonder to myself, how I became, in that moment, the parent I

never wanted to be. Like badness or nose-picking. I hope I won't pass on to my kids the things I don't like about myself. Yet here, with my puppy, I am seeing my failures.

Of course, it could just be their ages. My teenager doesn't have patience when the dog's schedule gets her way. She feels the same way about homework and me. My tween is busy making sense of the world, sorting out new freedoms like jumping to the store by herself. Rules seem to give her security — walk on Henry not Hicks — and provide after her ever-expanding world.

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## FAMILY CALENDAR

### FRI, JUNE 26

6:15 p.m. Movie night. Free. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, 718) 922-9710. [thermospot.com](http://thermospot.com).

### MON, JUNE 29

11 a.m. Storytime. See Friday, June 26.

### TUES, JUNE 30

7 p.m. Stories in the garden. \$2.50. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, 718) 922-9710. [thermospot.com](http://thermospot.com).

### WED, JULY 1

1 p.m. Storytime. See Friday, June 26.

### THURS, JULY 2

11 a.m. Dance Around with Nat. \$2.50. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, 718) 922-9710. [thermospot.com](http://thermospot.com).

### FRI, JULY 3

1 p.m. Storytime. See Friday, June 26.

### SUN, JUNE 28

11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Learn about plankton. See Saturday, June 27.

### NOON-4 p.m.

Free ice cream from Ben & Jerry's Children's Corner (Enter park at Flatbush Avenue and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, [www.prospectpark.org](http://www.prospectpark.org)).

### 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.

"Aladdin." See Saturday, June 27.

### 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

CIR-Curiosity. With juggling, clowns, acrobats, aerialists and more. \$14-\$10 (children under 12). Watfront Museum Barge (200 Conover St. near Reed Street in Red Hook, 718) 624-4719. [www.watfrontmuseum.org](http://www.watfrontmuseum.org).

### 1 p.m. Ringling Brothers

and Barnum & Bailey Boom A Ring. See Friday, June 26.

### 1 p.m. Nature Crafts.

See Saturday, June 27.

### 1:30 p.m. Science fun.

See Saturday, June 27.

### 3 p.m. Original music for children.

Free. Galesagos Art Space (6 Main St. at

### Water Street in DUMBO,

(718) 222-8500. [www.galesagosartspace.com](http://www.galesagosartspace.com).

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## DOOLEY

Continued from page 7

mighty fence, the better to protect the audience from the ferocious tigers to come. But when the stunning Vincenta Pages — dressed in a form-fitting coat that's conveniently cut to reveal her crotch and her decolletage — saunters in hand of Siberian cats, the animals rolled on the floor and nuzzled each other.

Even the kids in the front row sighed, "Awwww, cute," rather than cowering in fear.

One of the most hyped acts, the precision-synchronized shooting of Marti Peltonen was awkwardly staged. Not only did he miss his target a few times, but the finale of the act — Peltonen hits the target that sets a chain in motion of pre-set cross-bows firing until one arrow hits an apple on Peltonen's head — couldn't be fully appreciated by at least one-third of the audience.

And there is no better clown in Brooklyn today — current offshooters excepted, of course — than Justin Case, the Franco-frenetic stunt bicyclist, acrobat, comedian and flame-defier. Foolishly, producers of the show waste him for the first half-hour, insisting on having him enter as a bumbling

ring itself, but in the shadows at the back corners of the house. Both were missed opportunities.

Clearly, this tent is too large for this one-ring Ringling.

But do not get me wrong. Even if this is not truly the "Greatest Show on Earth," it still has a fitting, T-shirt-worthy motto: "Best Live Show You Can See Anywhere This Summer for \$10." The show itself is two solid hours (minus a wasted 20-minute intermission) and there are lots of activities for the kids for 90 minutes before the lights on and the circus comes to town. It's a full night of fun.

Judging by the crowd reaction on opening night, the elephants alone are worth the price of admission. Now, I've never had much use for pachyderms. They're slow. They smell. And they're politically compromised. But kids love them. Better still, ticketholders can look at them close up by heading backstage before the show.

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As they say, you'll pay for the entire spot, but you'll only need the edge.

It's not all an adrenaline rush, however, and its best moments — actually, come during more subdued interludes.

The clown Justin Case is the undisputed star. His ability to balance on a bicycle on his head makes him the greatest cyclist alive (take that, Lance Armstrong).

He's also offers some much-needed comic relief. While hoping over and around a member of the audience by lying prone in the ring, he displays a ribald sense of humor that, though definitely in the sophomoric sphere, is charming (the French accent helps).

If there's any aspect of the "Boom A Ring" that won't resonate with adult sensibilities, it's the animal acts. Children will not doubt disagree with this sentiment, but, frankly, the appearance of elephants and tigers result in duller spectacles. To see powerful, exotic animals so well-trained that they stand on their hind legs in the abstract, an impressive display of man conquering nature, but it's not quite exciting.

Dooley, through his cranky shtick, makes some valid points that the seating and layout are imperfect, but he exaggerates their detriment. Yes, you'll have to crane your neck at times, but focusing on those perceptive shows how deep the critic had to dig before finding a tiny bit of baring his teeth.

The bottom line is that the two-hour Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey show packs more thrills than a spin on the Cyclone — and for only \$10 a pop, costs only two bucks more than that fleeting, whip-lashing ride. It would still be a bargain at twice the price.

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The Park Slope Day Camp

## OUR OPINION

## Yards deal is a bailout

There is no better word than "bailout" to describe the efforts of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority this week in propping up developer Bruce Ratner's arena, residential and office complex near the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush Avenues.

Under the provisions of a deal inked on Wednesday, Ratner now need only pay \$20 million, rather than \$100 million, to begin construction of his basketball arena and one to four towers around it.

And the MTA, which needed its own taxpayer bailout and is, in fact, raising fares next week, also reduced Ratner's responsibility for infrastructure improvements at the rail yard over which he hopes to build.

By most estimates, that move alone could save Ratner \$100 million to \$200 million.

Some Atlantic Yards supporters insist — in the words of Forest City Ratner Vice President Bruce Bender — that this new deal is "not a bailout." On Thursday, Bender told The Brooklyn Paper:

"The changes made this week were necessary to advance this project to closing this fall."

We agree that government can — and often should — play a role in helping development. But the MTA's responsibility is to the taxpayer, not the developer.

While we have long supported the idea of an arena at the site — and, indeed, took intense heat from our readers last week for reiterating that support — we have also lambasted the MTA for what we have always called "the Original Sin" of Atlantic Yards, namely selling Ratner the development rights over the rail yard for a mere \$100 million.

That price was substantially less than the MTA's own appraised value. And it raised \$50 million less than Extell Development, another qualified bidder, offered.

At the time, the MTA said it accepted Ratner's lower bid because he intended to make such a substantial renovation of the rail yards.

Well, this week we saw where that promise went.

We do not blame Bruce Ratner for fighting for the best deal for himself and for an arena that we believe would be good for Brooklyn. But we are no longer alone in maintaining that the MTA, which made the original deal under Gov. Pataki, is missing its resources as ineptly under Gov. Paterson.

This week, the New York Post editorial page, which has cheered the project at every turn, called for the MTA to hold up the terms of the original deal, saying that this week's bailout "would be a bum deal even if the MTA was rolling in dough."

"If the climate is so bad today that a major developer... like Forest City can't raise \$100 million, what hope is there that it'll be able to raise \$4 billion-plus to cover the entire project's costs?" the Post asked. "The MTA needs to watch its wallet. It can't afford to subsidize private developers, and it shouldn't try."

We agree.

## ALL DRAWN OUT



## LETTERS

## Some readers react harshly to our arena editorial

To the editor,

Ralph Waldo Emerson railed against "foolish consistency."

Surely he had even less respect for foolish inconsistency.

A newspaper's editorial opinion means nothing if it is inconsistent. In your editorial ("Just do it," June 11), The Brooklyn Paper seems to be priding itself on some imagined consistency when it advocates for a taxpayer-funded arena on top of private property, city streets and the Vanderbilt rail yards — part of the proposed Atlantic Yards project — even more vehemently now that architect Frank Gehry has been dropped from the whole project.

But The Paper is downright de-

fensive in its claims of consistency.

That defensiveness is understandable because there is nothing consistent in The Paper's opinion. In March, 2008, it editorialized:

"The state must take back the development rights over the rail yards and put them out for bid. Doing so would not only cleanse state officials of the Original Sin of Atlantic Yards (namely selling Ratner the air rights for \$100 million less than their appraised value), but it would also set right Bruce Ratner's very wrong project."

So, while The Paper may now claim it has always wanted this arena, it hasn't; it has never actually supported Ratner's plan and never supported eminent domain or public subsidies upon which the arena and the rest of the project are dependent.

Did Bruce Ratner's very wrong project suddenly become very right because the developer dumped the architect whose reputation he leveraged for project approval?

The Paper of late likes to make the argument that we need this arena now more than ever because of the state of the economy, that the arena "will be an economic engine." We need this arena like a hole in the head now. It would be a money-loser for the city, and is the chief imped-

ment to the creation of truly affordable housing and union construction jobs over the rail yards.

For us, the issue isn't who the arena's architect is (though the bait-and-switch with Gehry is emblematic of a project defined by multiple bait-and-switches on cost, housing, public space and design, to name just a few).

The concept of an arena simultaneous with a housing crisis, in the middle of and on top of an existing residential community, is what we oppose, as do city zoning regulations which were overridden in a state takeover of the Atlantic Yards site — part of the "Original Sin" that The Paper editorialized against last year.

But that editorial is from the pre-Rupert Murdoch era, not that we think The Paper's new ownership has anything to do with the inconsistent editorial opinion expressed in its pages.

**Daniel Goldstein, Prospect Heights**

The writer is the spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, and lives on Pacific Street in the Atlantic Yards footprint.

• • •

To the editor,

Just do it?????

Are you f---ing kidding me?

On the front page of our newspaper????

You f---ing traitor!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Just build a f---ing shack so Ratner can make money????????

What the f---????

Do you have any principles? Do you have any balls at all????

"Just do it"???? I'll just stop reading the only paper that told the truth!!!!

Holy f---!! I'm disgusted!!!!!!

Shame on you!!!!!!

Shame on you!!!!!!

• • •

**Robert Frumkin, Prospect Heights**

• • •

To the editor,

The firing of Frank Gehry and the evolution of Atlantic Yards ought to provide a moment for reflection regarding the role of architecture, hubris, politics, and planning in our city. Will we continue to see another development deal, another architect, another political legacy all intertwined in a misbegotten attempt to control what perhaps should not be controlled?

The beauty and diversity of a great city has always been more than a single author can successfully imagine. Our worst legacy is our failed master plans with their

projects, urban renewal, super-

blocks, and highways that have destroyed and isolated neighborhoods. Our most humane urban environments are those that grew incrementally, responding to the needs as they arose and reflecting the rich tapestry of human expression.

So if development of the Atlantic Yards is to progress — and I doubt that anyone would argue that the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush or its open rail lines should remain as is — let's strategize the most effective approach for its realization.

Thoughtful urban design will be crucial in creating a successful scheme. Gehry is out, but there are some simple urban principles regarding the creation of great public spaces that should be directly employed: such as insuring human scale and fostering activity and human interaction at the street level.

The problem with a complex, mixed-use scheme is that all of its parts must be viable at the same time for it to succeed. Perhaps

Brooklyn's lower density does not justify the kind of intense mixed-use concentration proposed in this scheme.

A great architectural solution is

essential. Great design need not be a luxury reserved for flash times

and there are many fine examples to this effect. At a time when resources are precious and morale is low, a project that is publicly funded should be nothing less than excellent and inspiring.

Unfortunately, the images of Ellerbe Becket's arena scheme appear to be a recycled Conesco Fieldhouse dressed with suburban-scaled retail on the street level. It represents both a failure to grasp the principles of urban design and a failure of architectural imagination.

Let us engage our most talented designers and let us see the alternatives to this mediocre scheme. Let's insist on the best results for Brooklyn, for New York, for architecture, for urban design and for the people. There is no excuse for less.

**James Garrison, DUMBO**

• • •

**The principal**

To the editor,

I am the parent of a student who attends St. Saviour Elementary School (Catholic school parents see only turmoil in Flanagan's wake," June 4). I was very selective in choosing a school for my

daughter to attend. I looked into multiple schools before making the final decision to send her to St. Saviour because of its good reputation and the great academic success it has had.

St. Saviour has continued to thrive under Principal Flanagan's leadership. The school's success has next to nothing to do with Rev. Daniel Murphy, who has not even stepped foot into the school in over two years.

St. Saviour Elementary School has had many graduates who have successfully gone on to high schools and colleges of their choice. Many of these students earned scholarships. In fact, the number of the scholarships given to students at St. Saviour over the last 25 years (under Principal Flanagan) should speak for itself!

Why would Rev. Murphy want to fix something that is not broken? He mishandled this entire situation from the very beginning. It is our children and their education that are going to suffer the consequences. I am outraged over his decision not to renew James Flanagan's contract.

**Joyce Pisciotto, Bath Beach**

## Send a letter

By e-mail:

newroom@cnglocal.com

By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One Metrotech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

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\*Journal of the American Medical Association (2002).

\*\* Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (2002).

\*\*\* American Nurses Association (January 1997).

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A message from the Brooklyn Hospital Center RNs and the

New York State  
**NURSES**  
ASSOCIATION



# City penalizes Hamilton Av lane

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

The ever-expanding network of bike lanes will penetrate deeper into Carroll Gardens and Red Hook later this summer as the city plans fresh routes on Ninth and Columbia streets.

In the biggest news, the Department of Transportation will extend the existing Ninth Street stripe for cyclists from Third Avenue to Hamilton Avenue in July. From there, it will link up with a popular northbound bicycle route on Clinton Street by adding a



The battle for Brooklyn's byways

one-block long lane on congested Hamilton Avenue. "Improving safety and mobility are key goals, and enhancing this existing bike route helps to do both by connecting our bike network while calming traffic along the corridor," agency spokes-

woman Nicole Garcia said in a statement. Bike advocates are happy to see the city attempting to take a piece of the unruly Hamilton Avenue, which is alternatively clogged with Battery Expressway-bound traffic or a drag strip for motorists during off-hours.

"It's been part of a route that people from Park Slope are taking to get to the Brooklyn Bridge, so they're going to have to negotiate Hamilton Avenue no matter what," said Wiley Norvell, a spokesman for Transportation Alternatives. "Cyclists are already there and any street can be made safer if you have the right type of lane."

On Columbia Street, the new lanes in both directions will run from West Ninth Street to Bay Street and are part of a larger effort to control traffic on the wide boulevard. The city will create more parking spaces by creating diagonal spots in front of parallel parking and

also build a median to give pedestrians safe passage while crossing the street.

"It's a very wide, unregulated street," said Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community Board 6. Hammerman inspected the area with residents of the nearby Red Hook Houses and representatives of the Department of Transportation before all concluded that the lane was appropriate.

"The changes were universally held as a step in the right direction as a way to make it safe for everyone," he said.



The city will extend the Ninth Street bike lane to Hamilton Avenue (above) — and then add a bike connection to Clinton Street.



There were lots of cars at Ikea's opening last year.

## Ikea finds fewer customers are driving to outlet

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

Fewer people are driving to the one-year-old Ikea in Red Hook than the Swedish shop expected, according to a new study. The study, which presented this week to Community Board 6 revealed that the number was

far less — 71 percent of week-day visitors came by car and 64 percent on Saturdays and Sundays.

"The best news of all was that they far exceeded their initial projections of how many people would be traveling to the store by shuttle, ferry, car and bus," said Craig Hammerman, district manager of

Community Board 6, who's also an inductee into the nascent New York City Hall of Fame. "The numbers were much more in line with what the community desired."

But Ikea has had some good news. The store's opening, which was a chronic snafur of drivers at Hamilton Avenue waiting to turn

left onto Court Street during rush hour and on the weekend, has gotten worse.

Taken overall, however, the findings in the report, conducted for Ikea by Sam Schwartz, may dispel concern that the enormous store and its 1,400-space parking lot would be a car magnet. Still, some Red Hookers

said that the store is still having a negative impact.

"There's been a significant increase in air pollution in the area immediately adjacent to the store," said John McGettrick of the Red Hook Civic Association. The sprawling park lies due east of Ikea and along one of the principal routes to the retailer.

## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10

See Saturday, June 27.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: See Saturday, June 27.

BROOKLYN INDI MARKET: See Saturday, June 27.

FARMERS MARKET: Free 11 am-5 pm. L.I. Byrne Park (Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street in Park Slope).

ART IN THE PARK: Outdoor art show. Free. 11 am-4 pm. Narrows Botanical Garden (Shore Road and Bay Ridge Avenue in Bay Ridge).

BROOKLYN FLEA: Free. 11 am-4 pm. Under the Brooklyn Bridge Water Street and New Dock Street in DUMBO.

RECORD BOIT: Giant used music sale. Djs spin, and food and drinks available. \$3.50 for 10 am early access. Noon-4 pm. Wersaw (261 Driggs Ave. at East 10th Street in Greenpoint).

OTHER

IRISH FESTIVAL: See Saturday, June 27.

VANDERBILT AVENUE GOES CAR FREE: Live music, art, kids activities and more. Free. Noon-5 pm. Vanderbilt Avenue between Park Place and Dean Street in Prospect Heights.

NYC ZINE FEST: See Saturday, June 27.

SHORT FILMS: Part of BAMcinemaFEST. \$11. 12:30 pm. 3:15 pm. 6 pm. 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

BROOKLYN CYCLES VS. HUDSON VALLEY: \$8-\$15. 5 pm. Keybank Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th Street in Coney Island).

ART CLOSING RECEPTION: "Mend," a group show. Free. 6-8 pm. Proteus Gowanus (543 Union St. at Nevins Street in Gowanus).

FILM, "BOTTLE SHOCK": 7:30 pm. Emotions on Court (347 Court St. at Union Street in Carroll Gardens).

FILM, "DO THE RIGHT THING": Outdoor movie screening. Free. 8 pm. Habana Outpost (157 Fulton St. at S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene).

MON, JUNE 29

READING, MONICA FERRELL: Author of "The Answer is Always Yes." Free. 7 pm. BookCourt (163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill).

FILM, "MARKETA LA ZAROVA": \$11. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

READING, COMING OF AGE STORIES: With Felicia Sullivan, Rachel Shukert and Dan Fontaine. Free. 8 pm. Franklin Park (618 St. John's Pl. between Classon and Franklin avenues in Crown Heights).

TUES, JUNE 30

FILM, "SORELLE": Marco Bellocchio's family drama. 6:15 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

BROOKLYN CYCLES VS. HUDSON VALLEY: \$8-\$15. 7 pm. Keybank Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th Street in Coney Island).

THEATER, "YOUR LITOPEDION": Part of the Antidressant Festival. \$15. 8 pm. Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg).

FILM, "THE LEOPARD": Luchino Visconti's lavish period piece. \$11. 8 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

WED, JULY 1

ART OPENING: Art by Andrew Roston. Free. 5-7 pm. Bar Oliverio (899 Fulton St. between Clinton and Vanderbilt avenues in Clinton Hill).

FILM, "THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS": Wes Anderson's

quirky comedy. \$11. 6:15 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

BROOKLYN CYCLES VS. HUDSON VALLEY: \$8-\$15. 7 pm. Keybank Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th Street in Coney Island).

ART OPENING: Paintings by Virginia Wagner. Free. 7-9 pm. Tiller's (248 DeKalb Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue in Fort Greene).

READING, TOM POLSON: Author of "The Mad Ones." Free. 7-9 pm. Tiller's (248 DeKalb Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue in Fort Greene).

THEATER, "EXIT, PURSUED BY BEARS": Part of the Antidressant Festival. \$15. 7:30 pm. Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg).

THEATER, "INFECTIOUS OPPORTUNITY": Part of the Antidressant Festival. \$15. 9 pm. Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg).

FILM, "MISSISSIPPI MERMAID": Fyke's Truitt's story of sexual obsession. \$11. 9:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

THURS, JULY 2

MUSIC, TOSH REAGAN: Host of the 54th Blues & Blues Festival. Free. Noon. Meridian Court (151 Myrtle Avenue and Jay Street in Downtown Brooklyn).

FILM, "DEAD MAN": Jim Jarmusch's existential Western. \$11. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

MUSIC, ONE BERMUDEZ, CUCU DIAMANTES: With Rebel Diaz. \$3 (suggested). 7 pm. Prospect Park band shell (Enter park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Prospect Park).

BROOKLYN CYCLES VS. HUDSON VALLEY: \$8-\$15. 7 pm. Keybank Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th Street in Coney Island).

READING, COLUM MCCANN: Author of "Let the Great World Spin." Free. 7 pm. BookCourt (163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill).

MUSIC, KIKI SHEARD: With Keith Wondolowski. \$10. Free. 7 pm. Herbert Von King Park (Myrtle Avenue and Lafayette Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant).

THEATER, "SAMUEL AND ALASOIR": A PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE ROBOT MAN. See Saturday, June 27.

FILM, "INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS OF A CHINESE COURTISAN": Hong Kong revenge story. Part of BAMcinemaFEST. \$11. 5:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

FRI, JULY 3

FILM, "A MAN NAMED PEARL": Documentary. \$11. 4:45 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

FILM, "EVENTUAL SALVATION": Document about grandmother's return to Liberia. \$11. 6:50 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

THEATER, "INFECTIOUS OPPORTUNITY": 7 pm. See Wednesday, July 1.

BROOKLYN CYCLES VS. HUDSON VALLEY: \$8-\$15. 7 pm. Keybank Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th Street in Coney Island).

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Pianist David Kaplan. \$35-\$200.

students. 8 pm. Bargemusic (Pulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO).

FIREWORKS: Free. 9:30 pm. See Friday, June 26.

SAT, JULY 4

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

HOT DOG EATING CHAMPIONSHIP: The grand daddy of all competitive eating championships pits two-time champ Joey Chestnut against Takeru Kobayashi.

Free. Noon. Nathan's Surf Avenue at Still Avenue in Coney Island.

HISTORY TOUR IN FORT GREENE PARK: Guided tour explores the role the park played in the American Revolution.

Free. 1 pm. Fort Greene Park Visitor Center (First Avenue at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park in Fort Greene).

DISCOVERY TOUR: See Saturday, June 27.

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "BIG GIRLS CLUB (THE HAPPY HAPPY DANCE PRINCESS SHOW)": Part of the Antidressant Festival. \$15. 2 pm. Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg).

THEATER, "ADVENTURE QUEST": Part of the Antidressant Festival. \$15. 5 pm. Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg).

FIRST SATURDAY AT THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM: Music by Marjorie Ambassadors, Alex Bates and the Whiskey Rebellion, the Shondes, and Samba

Nation Batucada. Plus quilting workshop, film, gallery talk and dance party.

Free. 5-11 pm. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights).

SALES AND MARKETS

P5 321 FLEA MARKET: See Saturday, June 27.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS IN MCCABEN PARK: See Saturday, June 27.

BROOKLYN FLEA MARKET: See Saturday, June 27.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: See Saturday, June 27.

OTHER

WILLIAMSBURG WALKS: See Saturday, June 27.

FILM, "THE ANDERSON PLATFORM": Documentary about soldiers in Vietnam. \$11. 2 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

SCAVENGER HUNT AND BARBECUE: Pique, Cuis, food and drinks. Free. 2 pm. Littlefield (627 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus).

FILM, "CRIPS AND BLOODS — MADE IN AMERICA": Documentary about South Central. \$11. 4:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

FILM, "AFRO SAXONS": Documentary about a style competition. \$11. 6:50 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene).

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Tuesday, June 23, 2009

## An Open Letter to Members of the New York State Senate:

We, the undersigned 30 faith leaders, hereby declare our full support for the renewal of mayoral control in our city's public schools. We thank you for passing this important law in 2002 and urge you to put politics aside and pass the bill sent to you by the Assembly before mayoral control expires on June 30.

As ministers serving congregations in all five boroughs, we remember the old system well. Parents worried about whether their children would come home safe from school, much less receive a quality education. Districts with the most political clout and wealth were given more resources than districts in poorer neighborhoods.

Then in 2002, you in the State Legislature decided something must be done to protect all our children. You decided to adopt mayoral control. For the first time in 30 years, all districts were on a level playing field. Now the Mayor is accountable to every parent and student in this city — rich or poor. We've seen dramatic improvement in the schools in our communities; the worst have been closed, and the rest are being forced to improve. Schools aren't perfect, but many of them are safer and more students are graduating and going to college than ever before.

We are disappointed that the Senate is not meeting to pass this critical legislation and by statements that mayoral control might even be allowed to expire. Our children are not pawns in the game of politics. They are our future, and they are depending upon you to ensure that they continue to receive an equitable, quality education.

With just days left to renew mayoral control, time has run out on changes — like fixed terms for members of the Panel for Educational Policy — that were thoughtfully considered but ultimately rejected by the Assembly and Governor. We urge you to put children first and pass the Assembly's reform bill today.

Respectfully,

- Rev. Cheryl Anthony, Judah International
- Rev. Michael Batte, Shekinah Embassy International
- Rev. Keith Bolden, First Calvary Baptist Church
- Rev. Harold Burton, Brownsville Community Baptist Church
- Pastor Demetrius S. Carolina, St. First Central Baptist Church
- Rev. Earl Chester, Greater New Beginning Baptist Church
- Rev. Norman Coleman, Burke Ave. Baptist Church
- Rev. Thomas Coleman, New Paradise Baptist Church
- Rev. Jeffery Crenshaw, Greater Tabernacle Church
- Rev. John Davis, First Baptist Church
- Rev. Eric Figueroa, New Tabernacle Baptist
- Rev. William Foreman, St. Anthony Baptist Church
- Rev. Renee Gardner, Memorial Baptist Church
- Rev. Shelia Gardner, Eastwood Baptist Church
- Bishop Shervis Green, Greater Holy Tabernacle

- Rev. Victor T. Hall, Calvary Baptist Church
- Rev. F. Craig Henry, Little Rock Baptist Church
- Rev. Earl Jones, St. First Calvary Baptist Church
- Rev. Richard Lawson, New Canaan Baptist Church
- Rev. Robert Lindon, Bethel Light Institutional Baptist Church
- Bishop A.D. Lyons, First Baptist Church of Brownsville
- Rev. Dr. John Marshall, New Life Baptist Church
- Rev. Dr. Archie Minnis, Full Effect Gospel Ministries
- Rev. Kevin Quarles, Who So Ever Will Baptist Church
- Bishop Cecil Riley, Freedom Hall Church of God
- Rev. Roland Smith, Christian Faith Tabernacle Missionary Baptist
- Rev. Jason Sumner, Canaan Missionary Baptist Church
- Rev. Jacob Underwood, Grace Baptist Church
- Rev. Brian Viera, Covenant Family Fellowship
- Rev. Pastor Carl Washington, New Mount Zion Baptist Church

# Marty: You could be a poet!

## Meet Brooklyn's would-be poets laureate

While all of Brooklyn mourns the loss of poet laureate Ken Siegelman, The Brooklyn Paper got to work compiling a list of men and women (and, in once case, a pair of men) who could possibly fill the big fountain pen of the late Siegelman.

Here's the official "short list" that we will be sending to Borough President Markowitz. Vote for your favorite by e-mailing [Newsroom@bklocal.com](mailto:Newsroom@bklocal.com).

### Bob Hershorn

**Boorum Hill**  
ADVANTAGE: A great supporter and publisher of local poetry.  
DISADVANTAGE: He's too busy to be the poet laureate.

**"The Driver Said"**  
Boorum Hill? It used to be Coney Island. This ain't no neighborhood. If ya butcher Comes to ya funeral That's a neighborhood.

### Sharon Mesmer

**Park Slope**  
ADVANTAGE: A funny, vivacious poet who studied under Allen Ginsberg.  
DISADVANTAGE: It's a little to mention her sexual history.  
Comes to ya funeral That's a neighborhood.

**"The Brooklyn Bridge Climbs on Bones of Bricklayers"**  
The Brooklyn Bridge climbs on bones of bricklayers drunk with dependencies constrained as stones, beams broken by breathing, by smiles alive with ivory, by red checkers in pockets on third-class trains, on second-floor landings, behind the old grocery spring notwithstanding the levers vine-ripened,

the brilliant tulips of tatters and charity tatters brilliant kitchen bathtubs brilliant comfort of blue bathroom jars the rank sweating the stewing and the love-making the 2 train the blue hour a last thought in the brain's multiple pathways picking bones SPLASH

### Frank Hoier

**Bushwick**  
ADVANTAGE: Singer-songwriter who can reach young people.  
DISADVANTAGE: Only lived in Brooklyn for four years.

**"What Do We Do To Love, When We Talk About Love?"**  
(excerpt)  
Do we ruin and rip apart what we love best? When we spout little words about it out of our breasts? As if a sentence of the one could do a moment justice As if a book could convey a minute of silence As if a song could even touch on the sound of leaves Blowing in breezes on high up in trees As if a "Do" will bring out all of the love in you What do we do to love when we talk about love? Are we similar to heart surgeons drunk on gin

Cutting love up to repair it again? To show off our intelligence and skill to our friends? As we sit round a table as the sunset begins And we all want to leave but nobody will say when So it sits there in silence growing the darkness surrounding Do we think love is in the bottom of the bottle we are drinking? What do we do to love when we talk about love?

### They Might Be Giants

**Williamsburg**  
ADVANTAGE: Might be the single most-identifiable Brooklyn-based rock band. Ever.  
DISADVANTAGE: Let's be real: It is well documented why Constantinople changed its name to Istanbul.

**"Ana Ng"** (excerpt)  
Make a hole with a gun perpendicular To the name of this town in a desktop globe Exit wound in a foreign nation Showing the home of the one this was written for. My apartment looks upside down from there Water spirals the wrong way out the sink And her voice is a backwards record It's like a whirlpool and it never ends. All alone at the '64 World's Fair Eighty days yelling, "Small girl after all!" Who was at the Dupont Pavilion? Why was the bench still warm?

Who had been there? Or the time when the storm tangled up the wire. To the horn on the pole at the blip? And in the back of the edge of hearing These are the words that the voice was repeating: Ana Ng and I are getting old And we still haven't walked in the glow of each other's majestic presence Listen Ana, hear my words They're the ones you would think I might say if there was a When I was driving once I saw this painted on a bridge "I don't want the world, I just want your half."

**Leon Freilich**  
Park Slope  
ADVANTAGE: A poet with a rapier sword and a witty edge  
DISADVANTAGE: His poems are a bit of a joke, truth be told.

### Lynn Chandok

**Park Slope**  
ADVANTAGE: A cultural poet who would add diversity to the male-dominated poetic world.  
DISADVANTAGE: Sometimes evokes the Mets in his verse.

**"Confetti, Ticker Tape"**  
I want to say they're swallows. In September, when we were feeding everyone we could we'd look for them above the tracks on Ninth Street. What startled me was how their underparts caught the light, flashed silver, how the group would swoop and rise like wind itself, the flock vanishing every time it changed direction, how the birds hung on air and clung together circling above us, silver, like the squares we thought were bits of fuselage or fakes of skyscraper, falling, until they

floated towards us, lower, landing on our front stoop And I picked the papers up, but they were blank one after the other, blank, burned at the edges.

### Matthew Rohrer

**Park Slope**  
ADVANTAGE: Has published six books of poetry and sometimes evokes the Mets in his verse.  
DISADVANTAGE: Sometimes evokes the Mets in his verse.

### "Morning Glory on the Roof"

The grish beauty Of the Morning Glory, The delicate laundry pants. Looking around you, As far as you can see, Plants are imprisoned. Each morning Morning Glorys open upstairs, Out of sight. Each night the concrete lies Like a hot compress on the dirt. Thank you for your brief attention.

could summon Lynn Chandok, a poet of Indian descent whose work bridges the cultural gap between her family's native Kashmir and her current home in Brooklyn. "My mother grew up in Bensonhurst and my father grew up in Kashmir, so my life and my work goes back and forth between my safe life here and the tense environment there," she said. And if he wants to secure the youth vote, Markowitz could easily hire folk sage Frank Hoier, the Bushwick-based bard who also does the "Frank Hoier's Rhythm and News" feature on BrooklynPaper.com.

"Songwriters have always had an advantage of getting to the people directly," Hoier said. "Music is the poetry for everyone." Spoken like a budding poet laureate.

Another leading contender is Rohrer, 39, a writing professor at New York University and the author of six books of poetry, including "A Plate of Chicken" (Ugly Duckling Press) this year. A few poems mention the Mets, who are a universal symbol of frustration, but mostly Rohrer said he works in a lyric style that approaches big topics from small places.

"It's hard to approach something big like death, belief or love without pontificating, so I approach them from the small side," he said. "A poem about war told from a general's point of view is not universal. That's why I would tell it from the point of view of the dusty street." Heasletries to always find a connection with the reader through mundane details like doing the dishes.

"I'd rather read a poem about love and war and doing the dishes rather than just love and war," he said. "It makes people have a connection to the writer. The audience needs to feel that this is a poet who is just like them. They want to know that he has to move the car on Tuesday just like they do." If he wants something a bit more serious, Markowitz

## LAUREATE

Continued from page 1  
chair of the Brooklyn Book Festival, suggested Boorum Hill had Bob Hershorn, the publisher of the small, but influential Hanging Loose Press, a publishing house and twice-yearly literary magazine; Matthew Rohrer, a whimsical Park Slope scribe; and Kimiko Hahn, the author of seven collections of poetry including "The Unbearable Heart."

For his part, Hershorn immediately hit the right talking points. "I do write about Brooklyn a lot," he said, mentioning one of the main qualifications for laureatehood. "Plus, we've published 165 titles by many Brooklyn poets."

Better still, he might actually want the job! "It's something I would consider," he said. "It was discussed a few years ago, when Dennis got the job. But at the time, I was very busy. Then, when I saw what Dennis did with it, it became something attractive."

Ever the supporter of poetry in the borough, however, Hershorn immediately suggested two more names for the short list: Indian-born poet Vijay Seshadri and Park Slope writer Sharon Mesmer.

Mesmer will get the vote of anyone who likes a rambunctious dame who's not afraid to write poems with titles like "Annoying Diabetic Bitch" and "Holy Mother of Monkey Poo."

"If anyone is suggesting me [as poet laureate], it must be because I slept around so much," she said. But she's being modest: Mesmer, who studied under Allen Ginsberg, teaches at the New School and, this fall, at Brooklyn College.

She's published three books of poetry and would love to do outreach to students. "I'll go into any school that doesn't have a retrain-

## SIEGELMAN

Continued from page 1  
as borough president," he said. "Like the borough he loved and wrote about, his life was never boring, and he captured all of it — the good, the bad, the ups and downs. "Ken will be sorely missed, but his words will remain with us and inspire up-and-coming poets for generations to come."

Before becoming the borough's poet, Siegelman taught social studies at Abraham Lincoln HS for 33 years. He used poetry to break down cultural and linguistic barriers with his students, many of whom did not speak English. "Language was the only thing that stood in their way," Siegelman once said. "So I used my poetry to bridge the language gap."

In his guise as the laureate, Siegelman hosted Brooklyn Poetry Outreach, a collaboration with Markowitz and the Park Slope Barnes & Noble that features readings and discussion by some of Brooklyn's best and aspiring poets.

Siegelman is survived by his wife of 45 years, Pearl; daughters Karen and Tara; grandchildren Brooke, Matthew and Rachel; and a sister, Mona.

Siegelman's last Brooklyn Poetry Outreach event, which was already scheduled before his death, was set for Thursday, June 25, at Barnes & Noble (267 Seventh Ave., at Sixth Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-9066). Read his last poem at BrooklynPaper.com.

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